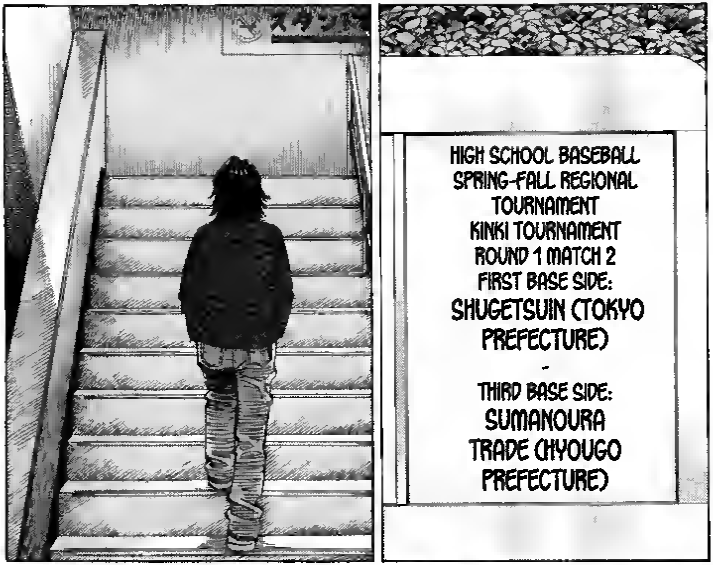
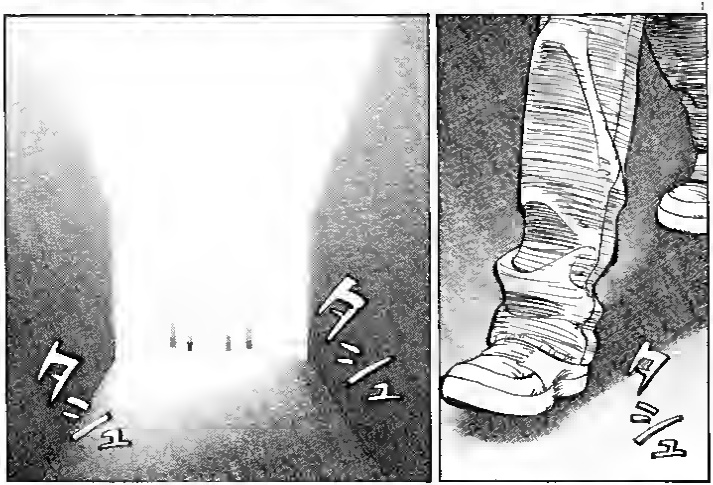
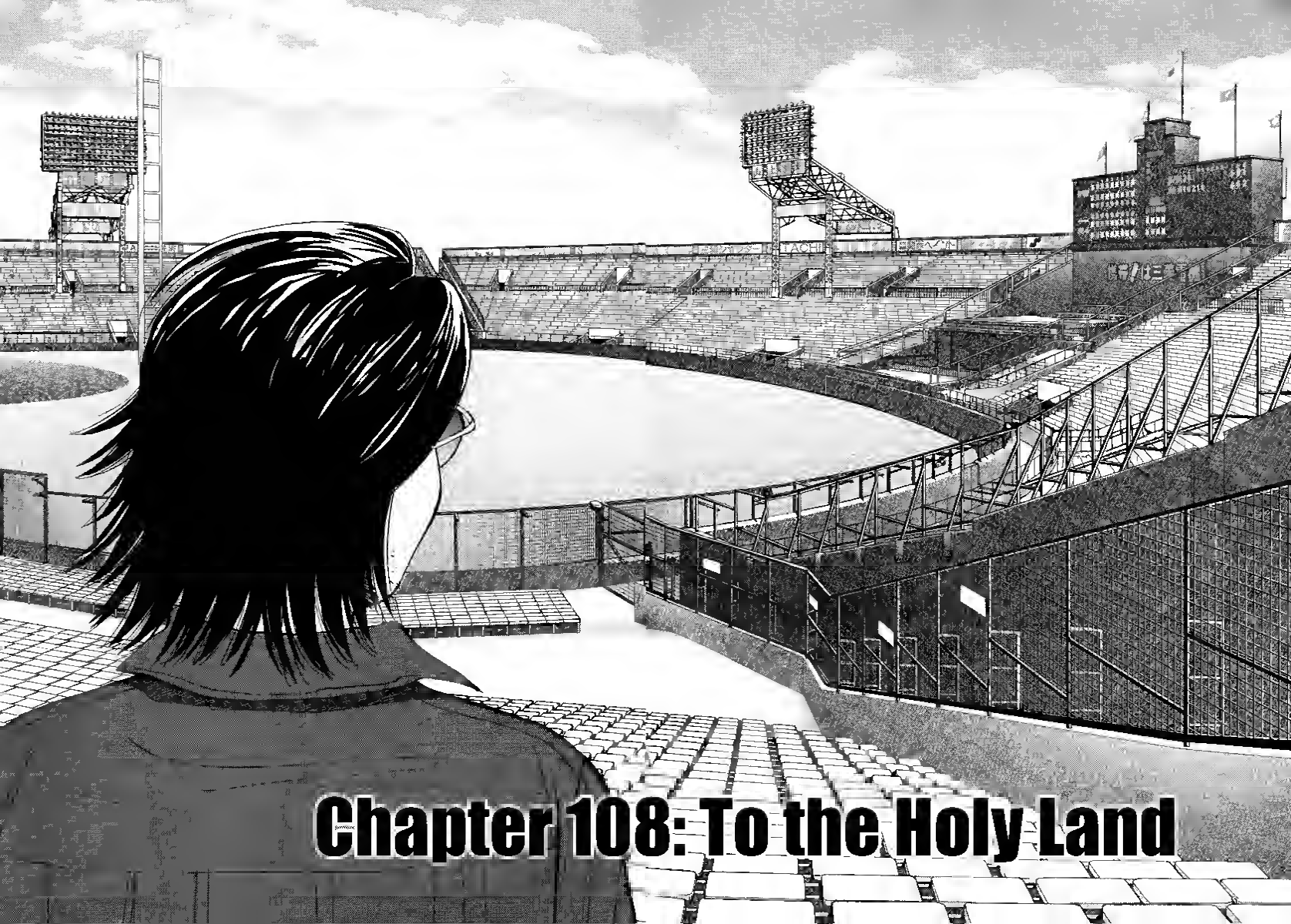
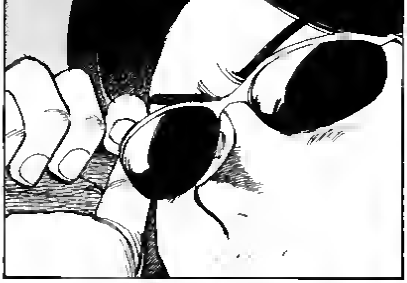




Chapter 108: To the Holy Land

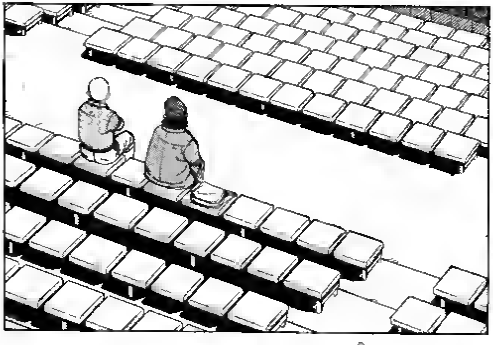


Chapter 108: To the Holy Land




Koshien... It's been 10 years, hasn't it...



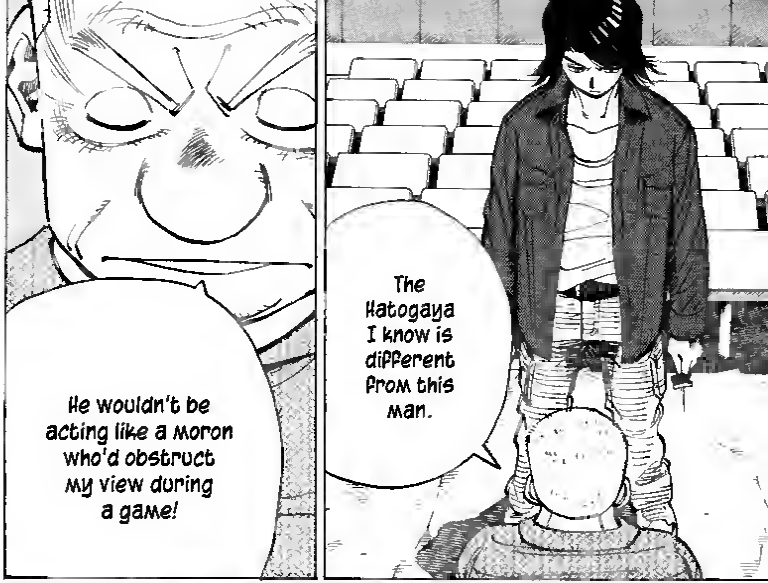





The Kosien special, grilled squid and conch〰〰
Want some? They're pretty good.
HATO-GAYA-SAN, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?


You guessed it, but... How did you know I was here!?
That grumpy woman told you to come here and find out if my story was true or not, right?
HMPH
I know what you're up to.
If Occhan was going to watch anything... no doubt it would be this card. That's what I thought when I came here...
One side is an emergent religious type school. The other is a dark horse that rose up in a hotly contested region. Either of the teams bears watching in preparation for this summer...
UMPIRE
CH TB JIB HIB


Huh?
Warabi-kun, is this rude man an acquaintance of yours?
How did I do? My power of insight hasn't weakened, has it?
He shows up in front of people suddenly and starts spouting gibberish... There's a limit even to lack of manners.
7
What are you saying? I heard about his past directly from Hatogaya-san just recently-
I don't know him I don't remember ever having a pupil.
Eh? Umm... He's Hatogaya Keisuke-san, your pupil...


He wouldn't be acting like a moron who'd obstruct my view during a game!
The Hatogaya I know is different from this man.


He promised to never again appear before me.
Besides ...

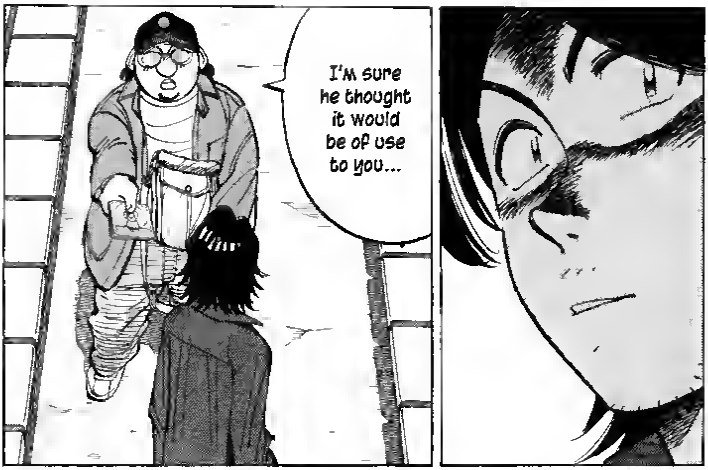

Warabi-kun, if this man is your acquaint-ance, please explain this to him properly.
I've seen all I needed to see. Excuse me, I'll be taking my leave now.
When facing other people, one must perceive not just the surface, but also the background and mental state.


Catcher's third rule...!!
That's ...

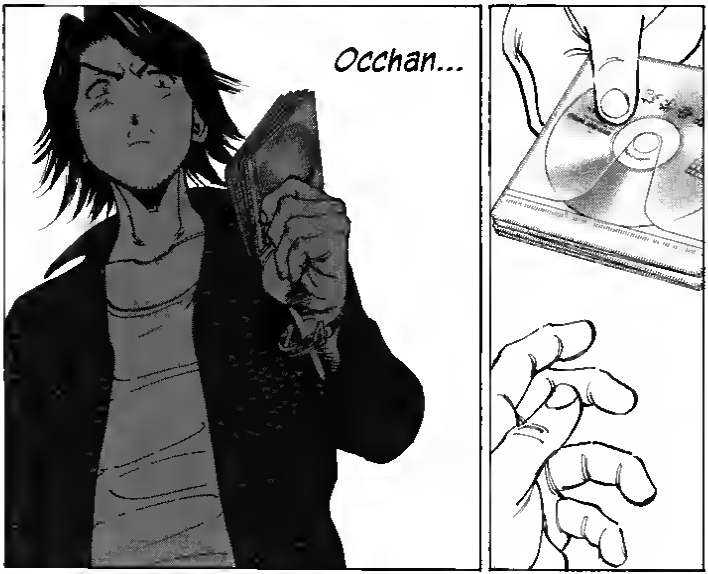

BITE !!
Where are you going?
I'm going back.
Tasty!
10
HE WAS THINKING OF YOUR CURRENT POSITION, HATO-GAYA-SAN...!!
PLEASE WAIT!!
What's with that attitude!? Shit, I shouldn't have come!!
Sheesh, I thought I'd come to see the face I haven't seen in ages, and this is what I get. He's so unlovable!!

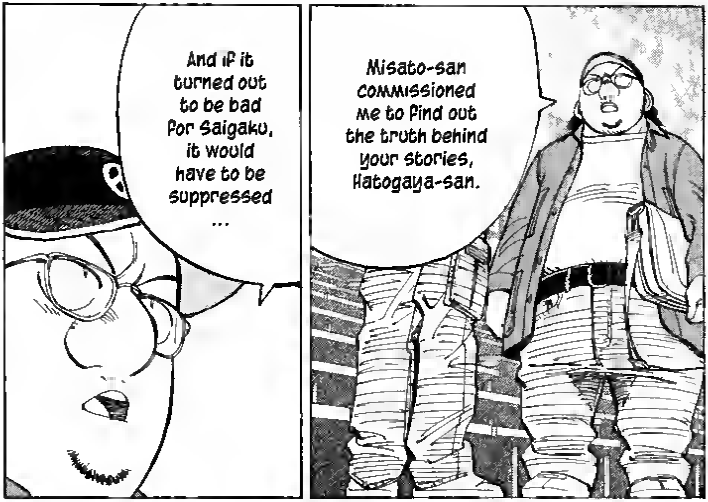

I have something from Momotani-san to pass to you.


DVDs with Virgin Mary's Coach Kiryuu's every match from his four appearances at the Koshien.



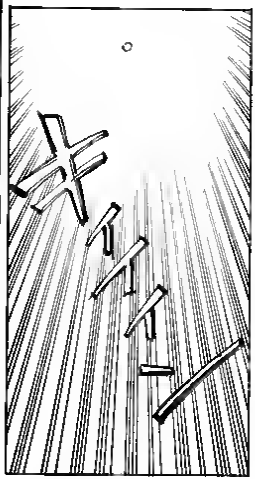
12




And if it turned out to be bad for Saigaku, it would have to be suppressed ...
Misato-san commissioned me to find out the truth behind your stories, Hatogaya-san.


He said that if I wanted to know, I should ask you ...
I asked Momotani-san but he persistently refused to answer...
I know.




ドドドドド



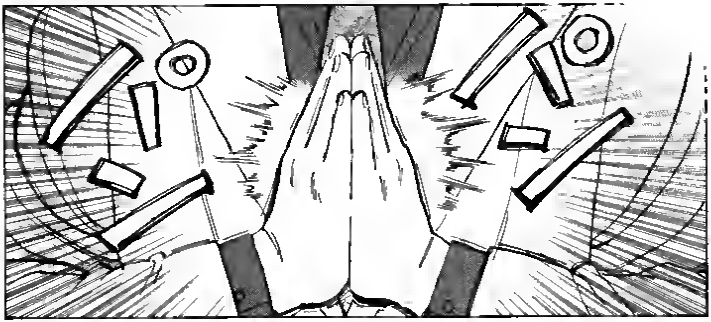

Momotani-san had misgivings about your aspirations to become a bookie, Hatogaya-san, left you a parting letter, and...
The scene of your parting from Momotani-san, right?


The fact that I became his right hand man was also true. What's different is what followed after...
My story up to the point where I was trained by Momotani Juuzou to predict the outcome of high school baseball games wasn't a lie.


That's true.
There's no way something so pure and beautiful would happen with me, is there?
And then I read that letter, cried, and repented ...?
Uh, I'm sorry!!
Back then, I was around 20.
Even if I do say so myself, I was sharper than the usual hoodlums, and I was highly sensitive to the smell of money...
15
Having spent three years with Momotani Juuzou, naturally I already knew how that biz was set up.


So you seriously wanted to be a bookie ...?
Yeah, I was thinking about it.


About stealing money from the family...

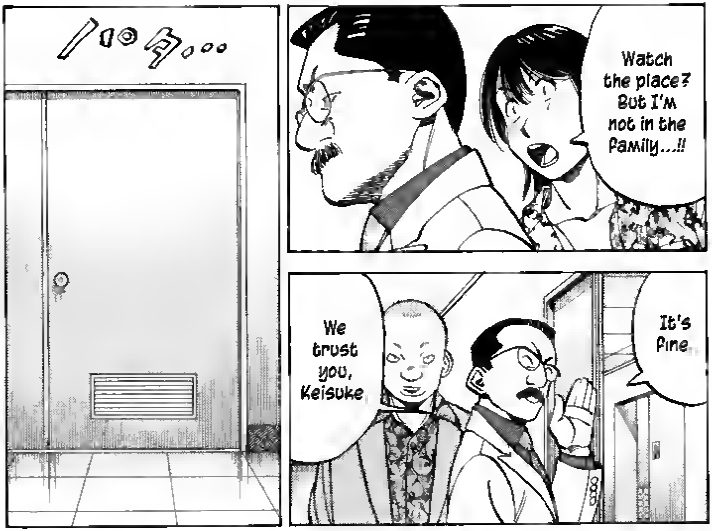

パン
パン


太閤会
太閤会
太閤会
太閤会
Our office is doing so well thanks to baseball.
斬酒


High school baseball is our bread-winner.
太閤会
太閤会
太閤会
What bread-winner?
It's all thanks to me and Occhan.

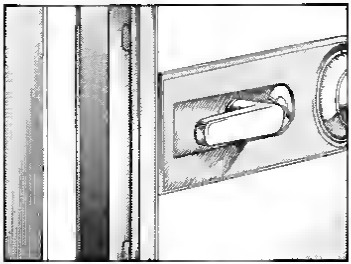
18


We'll go out for two hours or so. Please watch the place, Keisuke.
Ehhh!?
Without us, you people wouldn't be able to do anything..
ポー

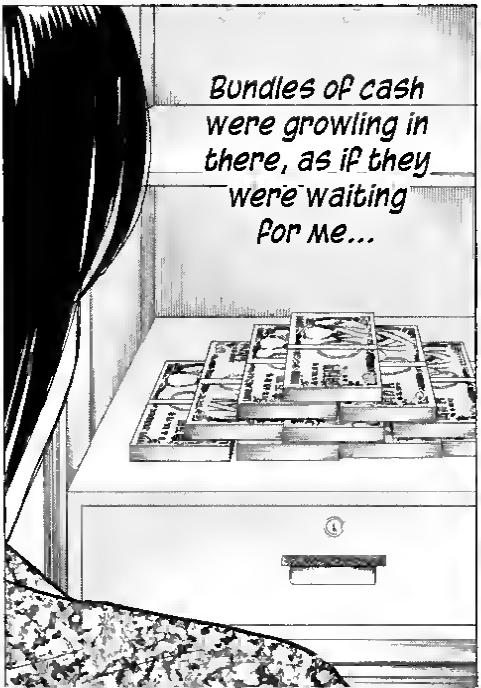

ﾉｯｸ...
Watch the place? But I'm not in the family...!!
We trust you, Keisuke
It's fine.


活殺自在








Bundles of cash were growling in there, as if they were waiting for me...




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Bearking
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Post on our forum or Irc channel for more info or just talk to staff.

Sorry know cute anime pictures on this recruitment page this time we will show you the three things you need to help our group.
First a Computer hope i don't need to explain that one.
Second you need photoshop .
You don't need to be a pro at it we will teach you the basic things that you will need to learn in order to edit manga.
Finally you need time, it takes around two hours to either typeset or clean something so you must be willing to give up some free time in order to give back to the community.
That's it thats all you need to join the group so please apply cause we really do need help~!



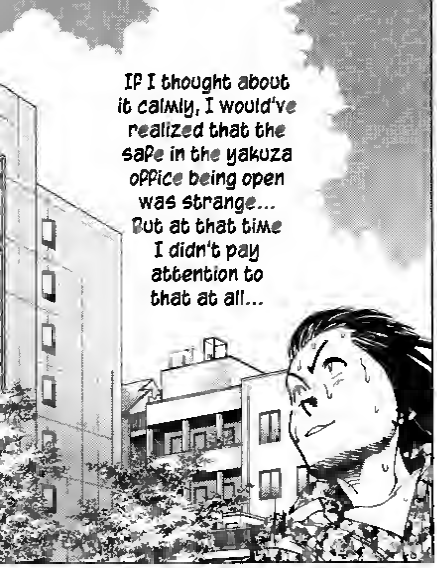
Chapter 109: The Summer of Parting: The Real Story

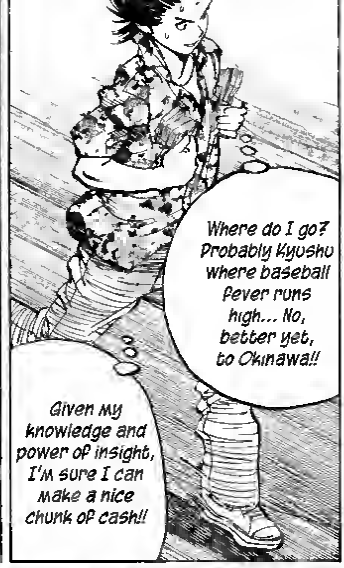




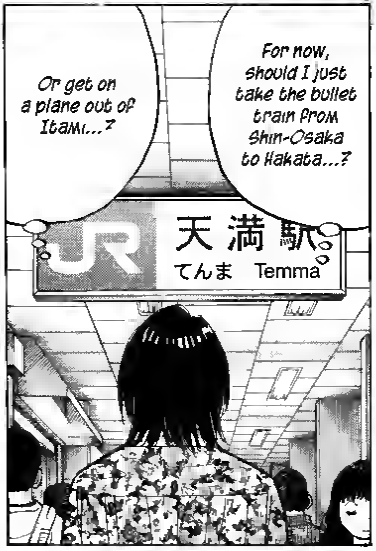


Chapter 109: The Summer of Parting: The Real Story


If I thought about it calmly, I would've realized that the safe in the yakuza office being open was strange... But at that time I didn't pay attention to that at all...


Where do I go? Probably Kyushu where baseball fever runs high... No, better yet, to Okinawa!!
Given my knowledge and power of insight, I'm sure I can make a nice chunk of cash!!


!!


For now, should I just take the bullet train from Shin-Osaka to Hakata...?
Or get on a plane out of Itami...?
JR
天満駅
てんま Temma






Crap!!


JR
京 橋 駅
きょうばし Kyōbashi


THERE HE IS!!


Uwah! They're here too...!!


Does this mean they got all the nearby stations staked out!?


HOLD IT!!
!!
TCH!!
HAA.
HAA.


LEMME GO, DAMMIT !!
YOU BE QUIET, FOOL!!






You really did something dumb...
Did you think you could run away with the family's cash...?




So this will be a quick talk
But opening the safe and stealing money... This is easy to understand even for you.


You've turned into a very handsome man, Kensuke.
正虎

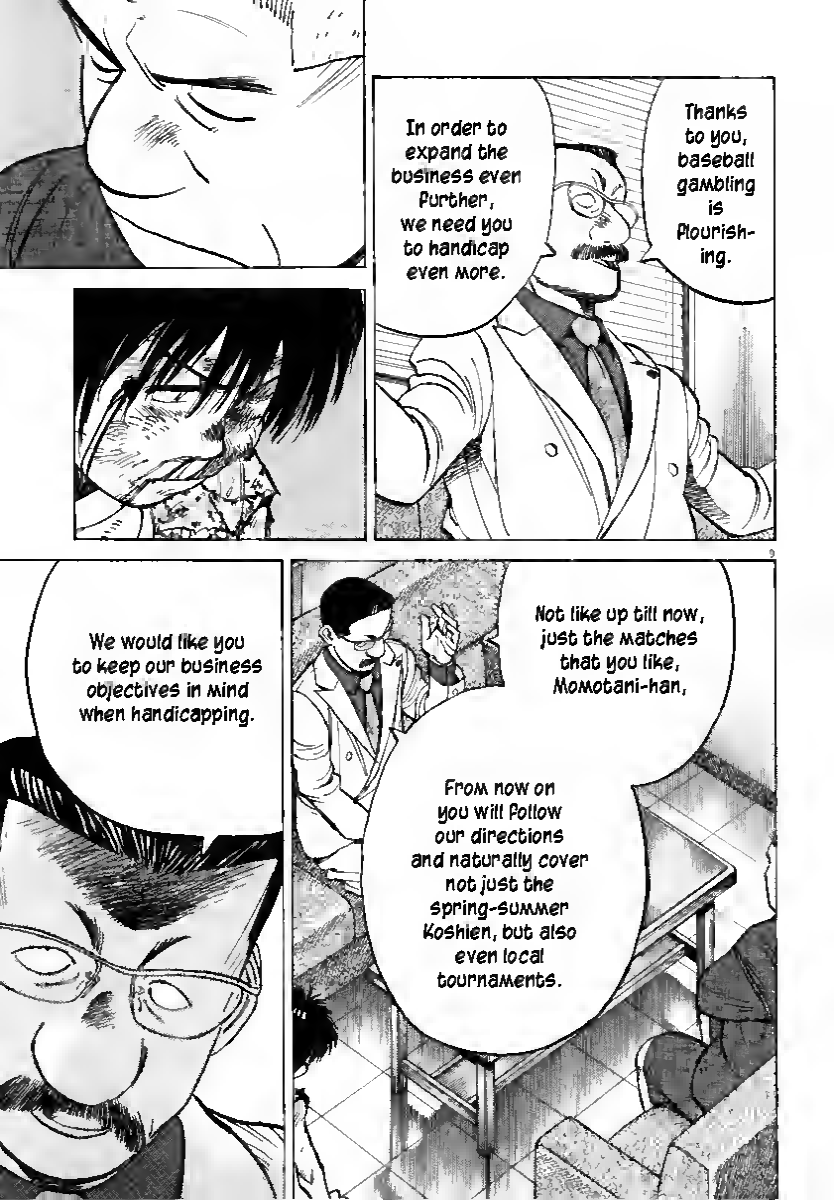



...Talk?


A disciple's misconduct is the master's responsibility. Right, Momotani-san?

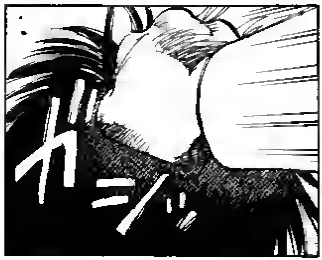



Well, if you put it plainly, yes.
So basically you're saying that from now on I will watch baseball only for gambling purposes?


Thanks to you, baseball gambling is flourishing.
In order to expand the business even further, we need you to handicap even more.
Not like up till now, just the matches that you like, Momotani-han,
From now on you will follow our directions and naturally cover not just the spring-summer Koshien, but also even local tournaments.
We would like you to keep our business objectives in mind when handicapping.

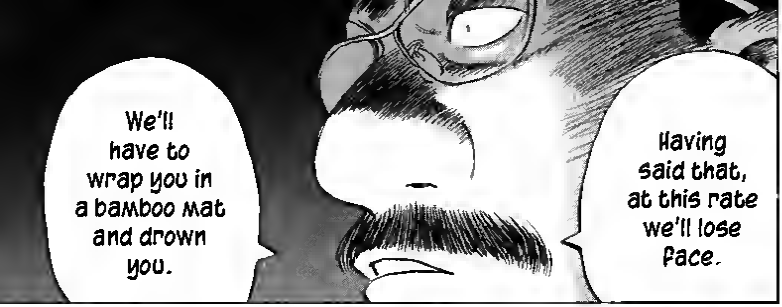


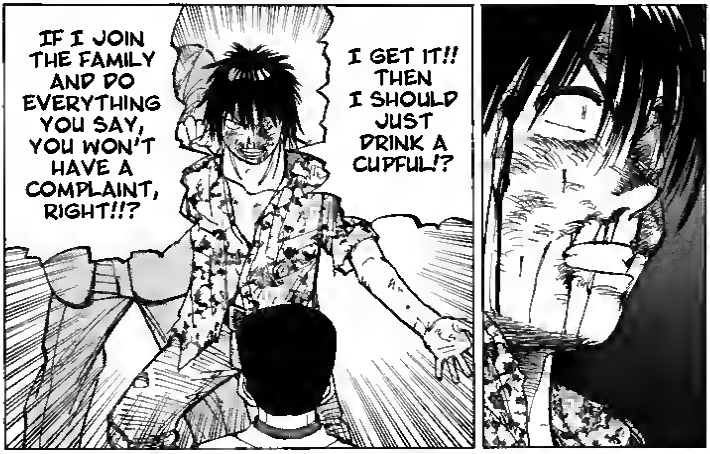




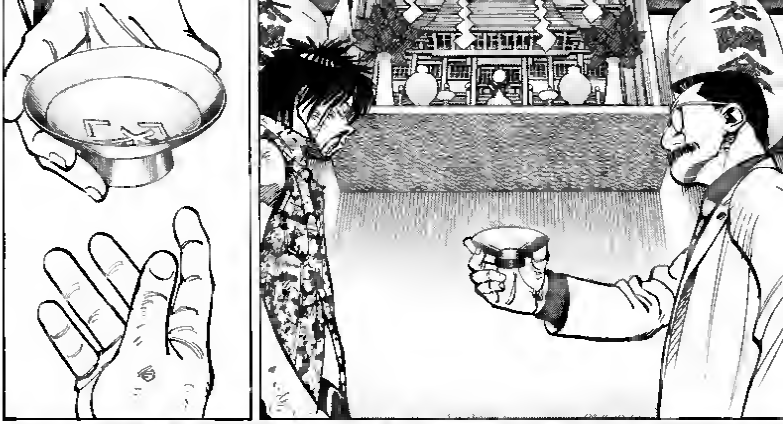


tl note: Cutting off a part of a finger is the yakuza ritual of atonement, drinking a cup of a sake is the ritual of initiation into the yakuza


We'll have to wrap you in a bamboo mat and drown you.
Having said that, at this rate we'll lose face.


IF I JOIN THE FAMILY AND DO EVERYTHING YOU SAY, YOU WON'T HAVE A COMPLAINT, RIGHT!!?
I GET IT!! THEN I SHOULD JUST DRINK A CUPFUL!?

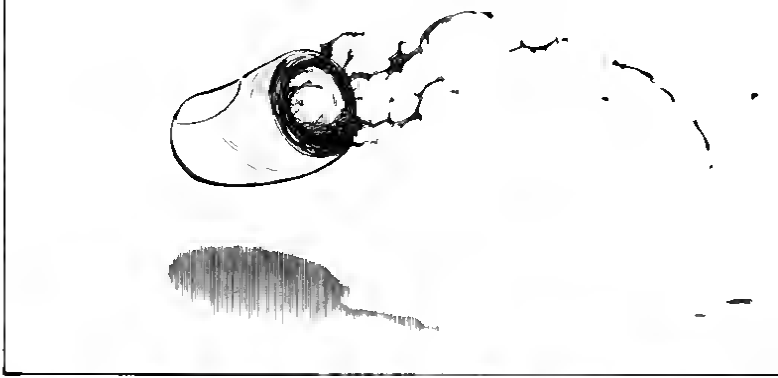

Drink a cupful and shorten your finger.
Hoh. If you're serious about that, then show us the proof.
I'LL HANDICAP IN OCCHAN'S PLACE!!

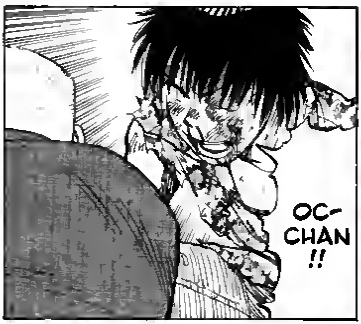


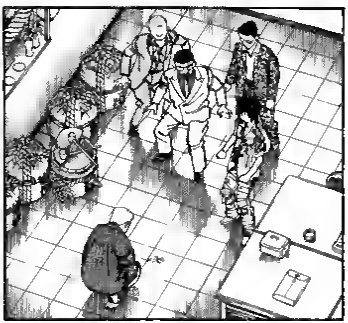

GRIN
...Oc-chan ...
THE DISCIPLE'S MIS-CONDUCT IS MY RESPON-SIBILITY, ISN'T IT!!? I'LL TAKE THAT CUP!!
HOLD IT!!
As expected from the master. You understand quickly.


This was very good Now both the master and the disciple are completely under our patronage.
13
Then this finger also has value, doesn't it?
...Huh... So this makes me a part of the family as well.

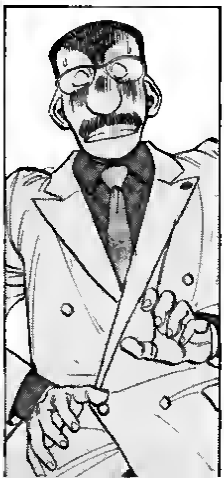

HAA
AA
AA
AH!!




OC-
CHAN
!!




I'm sure
this saves
your face.




Also... Since I took the responsibility, he's a free man now.
You don't have any complaints, right?

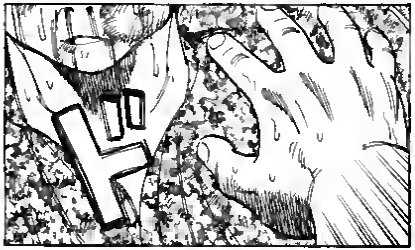

So what do we do we that finger ...?
We can't help but accept it, can we?




Still, these days... It's not something even real yakuza can do. This was the first time I saw it.


...I'm sorry, I'm sorry ...


I'm sorry... Occhan ...
It's my fault...




...I'm sorry, Occhan... I'll never do something like this again... I'm sorry ...





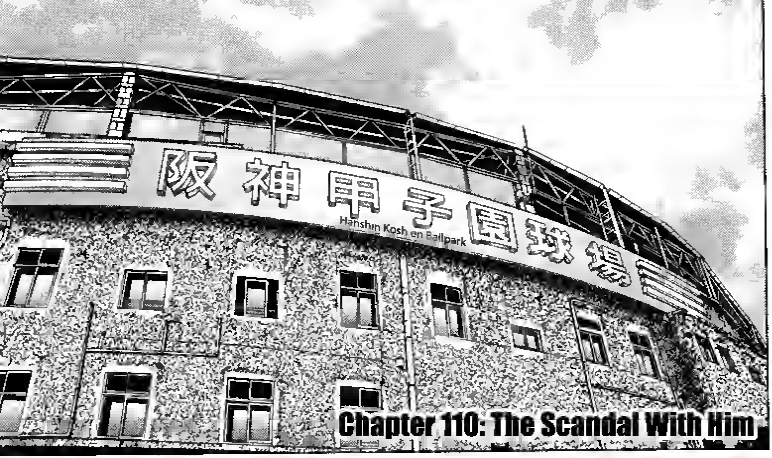

YOU ARE EXPELLED!! NEVER SHOW YOUR FACE IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN!!


There's no way back for me anymore. But you can still make it right.
Return to decent living!!
... Oc-chan...
Go see the owner of this business card. If you tell him you're from me, I'm sure he won't do bad by you.
Everything that you've learned under my tutelage... Someday, use it in a place where the sun shines...


Don't give up baseball, Keisuke!!
I pray... That one day you will go back to the field...




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QC'ER
Cmertb
Fleshcut
PANA
Bearking
LOOKING
FOR STAFF.



Chapter 110: The Scandal With Him





Chapter 110: The Scandal With Him

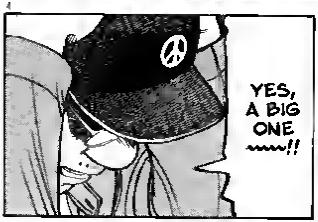

As I thought, religious type schools are strong. I wonder if it's because they're all believers...?
What's wrong, Warapyon? Are you troubled by something?
My story?
I wonder if it was true... Your story just now...?
In order to free you, Hatogaya-san, Momotani-san cut off his own finger...


.....


The fact that you came clean makes it difficult. .


Mm-
After I came clean about everything, I feel relieved somehow...

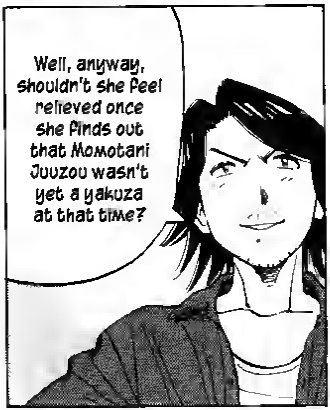

Is there really a problem?

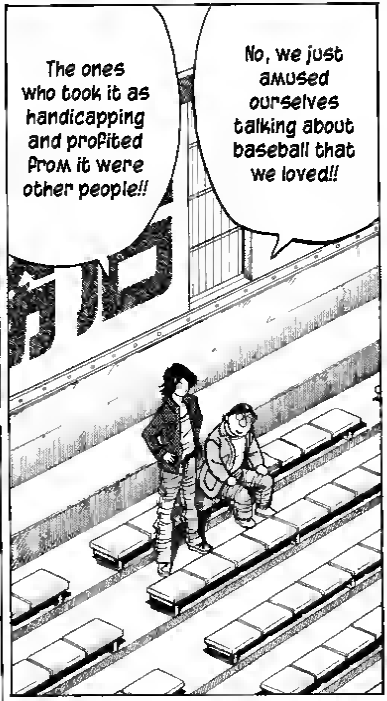

YES, A BIG ONE ~~~!!


AH GEEZ~~~ HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REPORT THIS TO MISATO-SAN ~~~?
?


How come?
I didn't accept a cup from the yakuza, Momotani Juuzou who handicapped with me also-

5

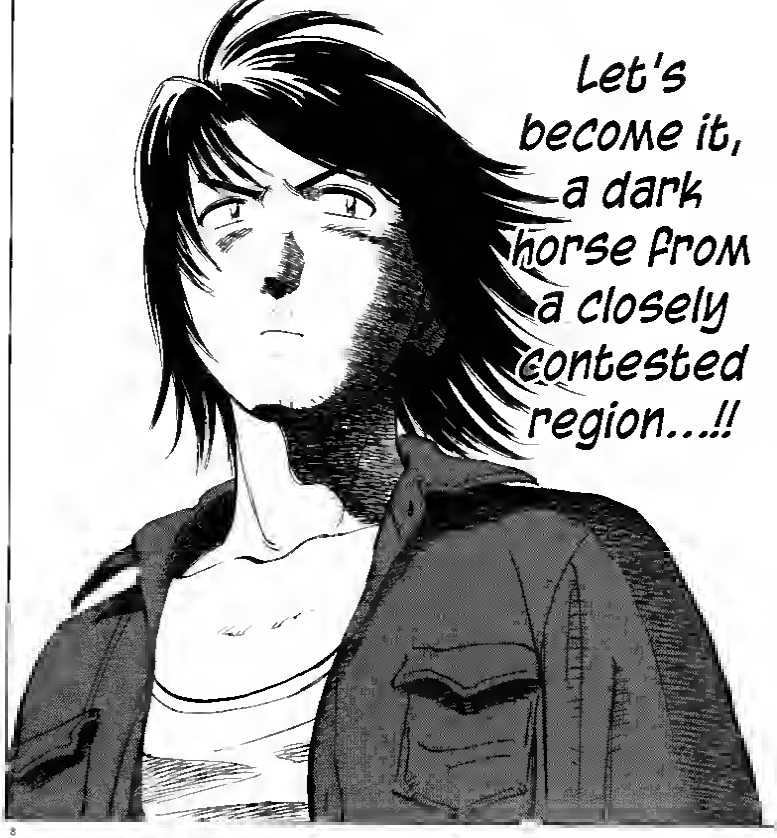

Well, anyway, shouldn't she feel relieved once she finds out that Momotani Juuzou wasn't yet a yakuza at that time?

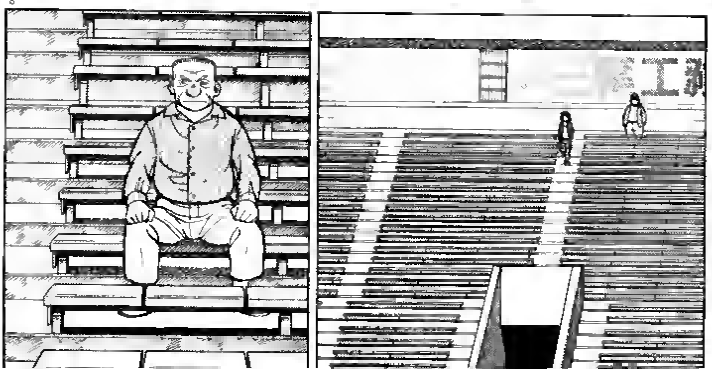

No, we just amused ourselves talking about baseball that we loved!!
The ones who took it as handicapping and profited from it were other people!!

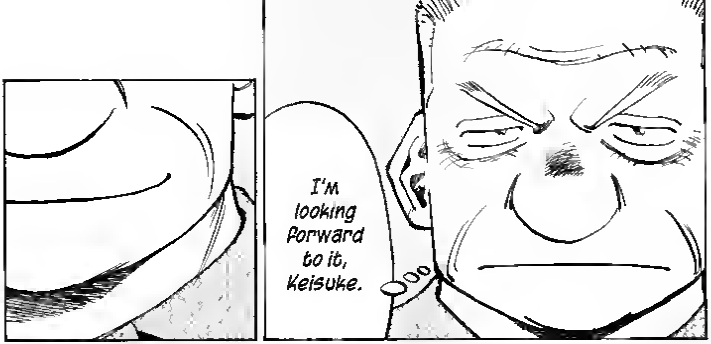

BUT AFTERWARD, HE ACCEPTED IT, THAT CUP!! IN THAT TERRIBLE SITUATION!!

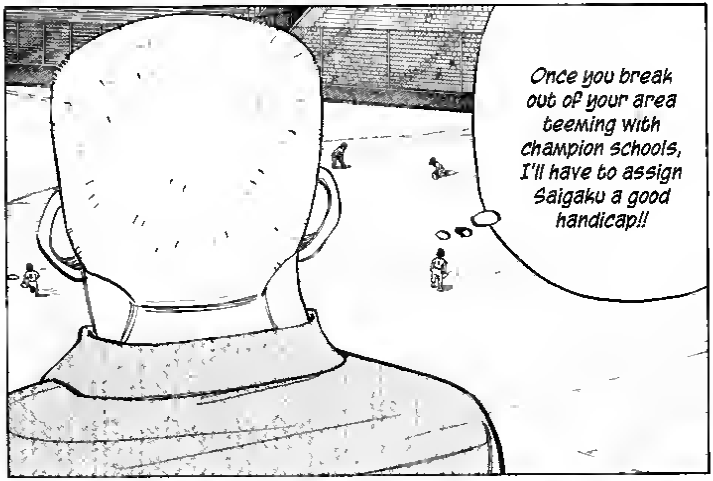

Make something up...?
Well, make something up in relation to that.
Mm
It's just that Musato-san paid for my research this time, so I have an obligation to report to her..
That's it!
It's not like you'll write it down anywhere?
I can't write about something like that
6
That's where a pro should show off his skills!!
Romantic ...!?
That story...? How...?
Don't make your report so provocative, instead dramatize it in a more romantic way!!

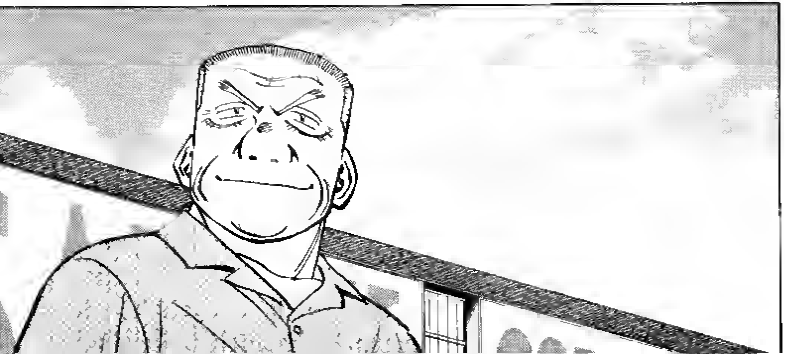

Time to go back!! The brats are all waiting for me at school!!
Aw-right!
I'M NOT A PLAY-WRIGHT
Next time I come here will be in the summer...

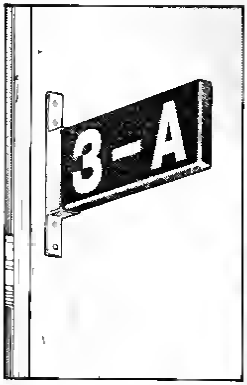

Let's become it, a dark horse from a closely contested region...!!

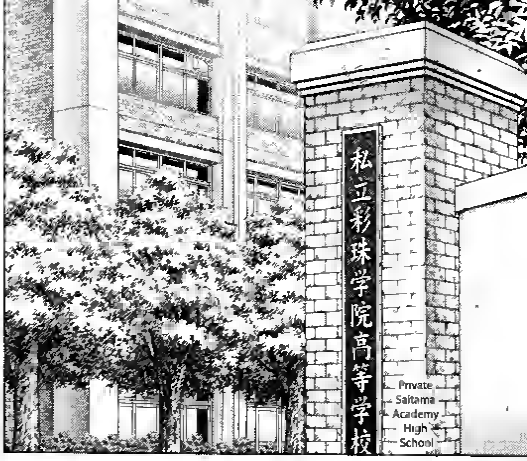


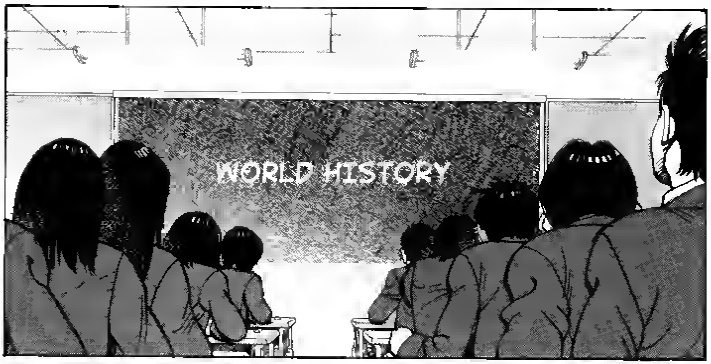

I'm looking forward to it, Keisuke.


Once you break out of your area teeming with champion schools, I'll have to assign Saigaku a good handicap!!

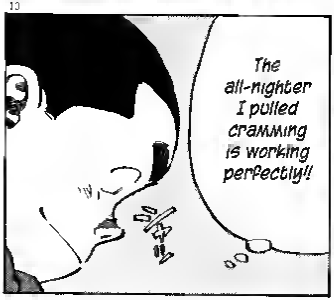


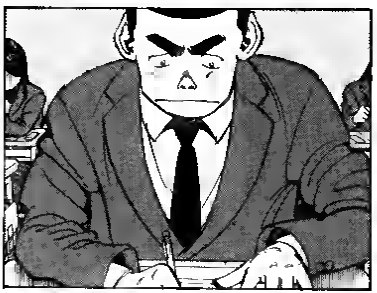

3-A

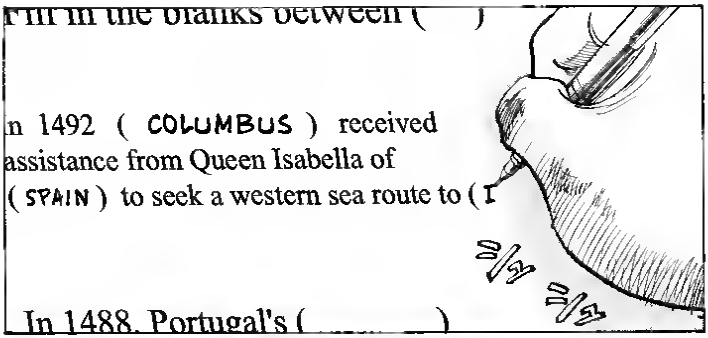

私立彩珠学院高等学校
Private Saitama Academy High School

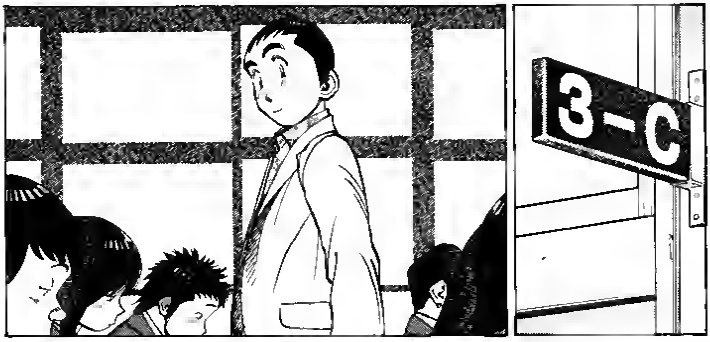

WORLD HISTORY

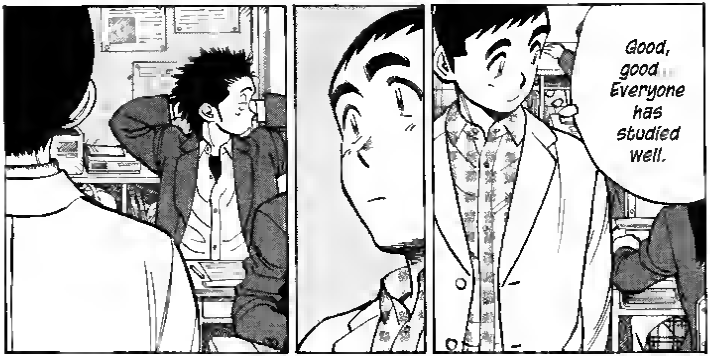
13


The all-nighter I pulled cramming is working perfectly!!




Fill in the blanks between ( )
n 1492 (COLUMBUS) received
assistance from Queen Isabella of
(SPAIN) to seek a western sea route to (I
In 1488, Portugal's ( )


3-C


Good, good. Everyone has studied well.

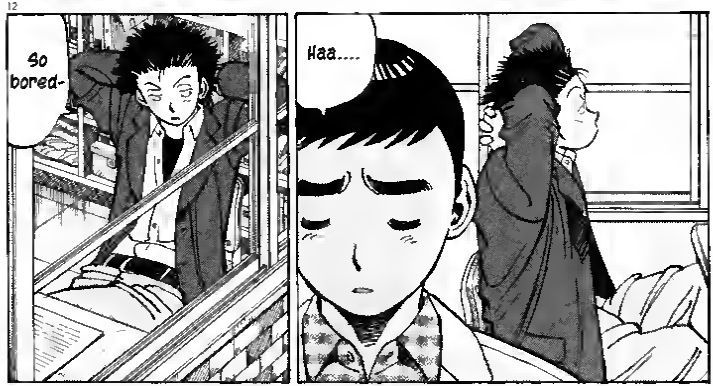


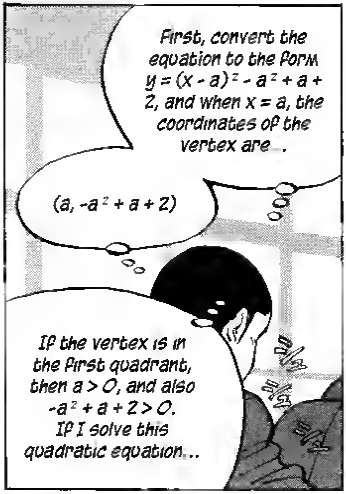
Fill in the blanks between ()

In 1492 (BOBBY VALENTINE) received assistance from Queen Isabella of (NY METS) to seek a western sea route to (THE BACKSCREEN).

In 1488 Portugal's (BASEBALL CLUB) reached Africa's southernmost (BASEBALL FIELD) for the first time, and in 1498 (THE CHAMPIONSHIP PENNANT) sailed around it for the first time, entered the Indian Ocean, and reached Calicut.

12

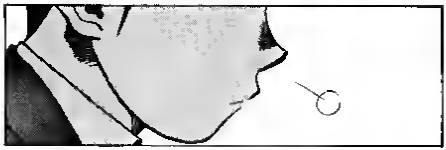


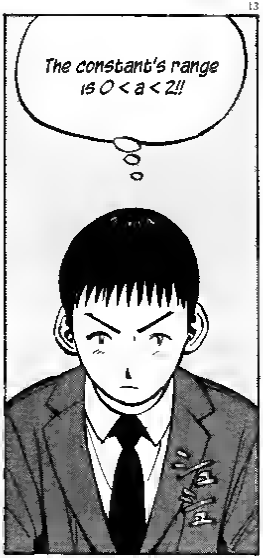




Find the coordinates of the vertex of the parabola described by $y = x^2 - 2ax + a + 2$. Furthermore, find the range of values for the constant a assuming that the vertex is in the first quadrant.

13



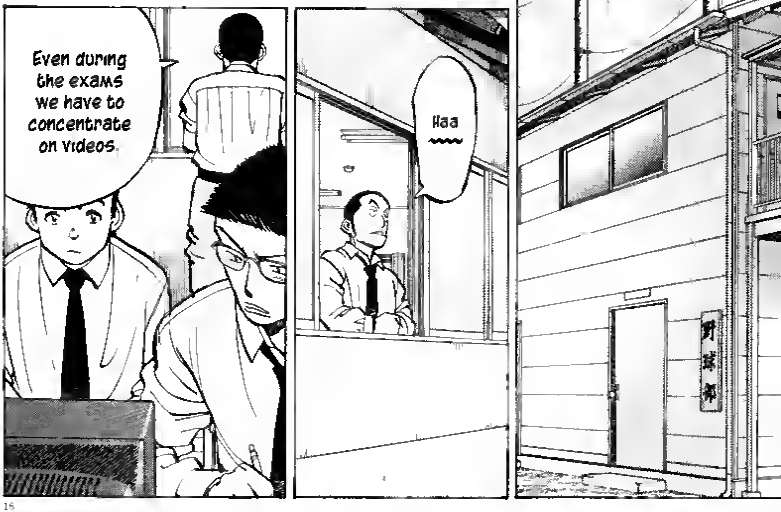


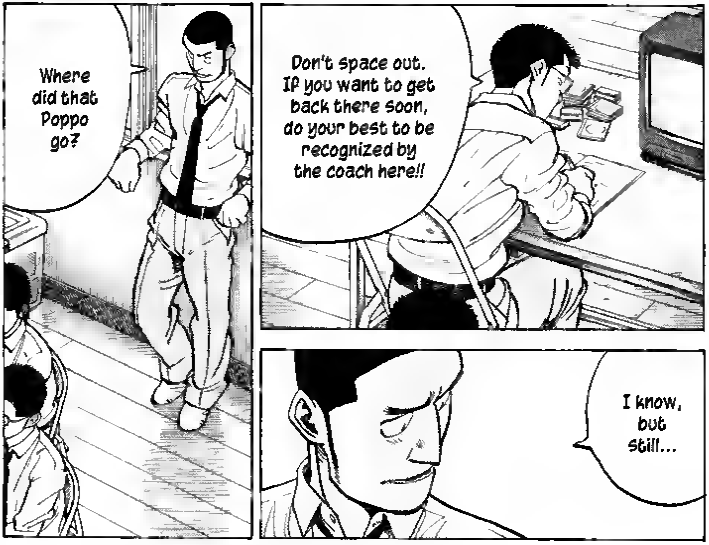



2-B
I can see it...
Don't look to the side!
ポコ
Base steal fail.
KU KU

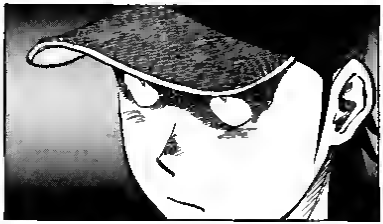

I made some guesses and they were spot on.
I struck out too. Three times in a row.
S
HA
Aw~~~ Total fail~~~
INDEP-ENDENT PRACTICE IS ONLY UNTIL 3 DURING THE TEST PERIOD-!!
GET MOVING !!
Iwatsuki~~~ How did it go for you?
Don't ask, idiot.


LET'S START !!
AW- RIGHT
WE'LL RUN OUT OF TIME —!!


Even during the exams we have to concentrate on videos.
Haa
野球部


Where did that Poppo go?
Don't space out. IP you want to get back there soon, do your best to be recognized by the coach here!!
I know, but still...


ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!! HIDAKA-SAN!!



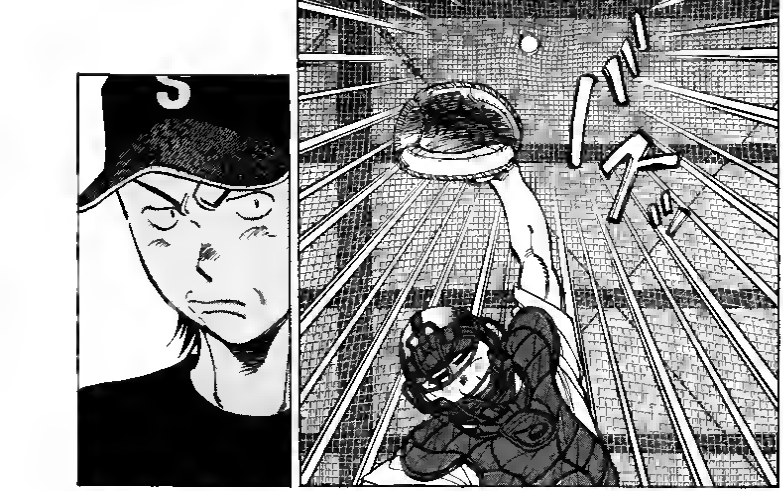

Where's that Yashio gone off to!?

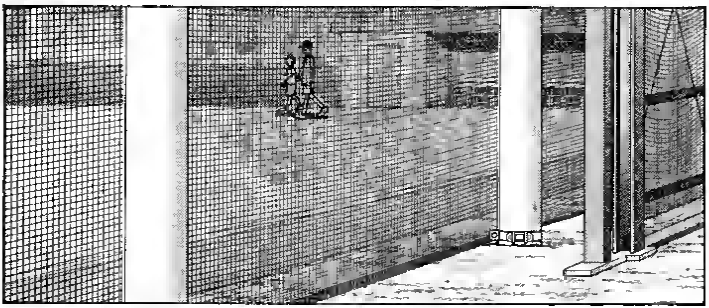
17


NICE PITCH!!




In what way was that pitch nice? Go ahead, tell me!!
I- In what way...?
In what way?
Huh?
Umm ...
Eh uh
TCH!!
Then how would it go with a bad spin!?
Huuuh -?
Right .. The spin was good and stuff...
!!
DON'T GO SAYING RANDOM STUFF WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S GOOD AND WHAT'S BAD!!


バッ



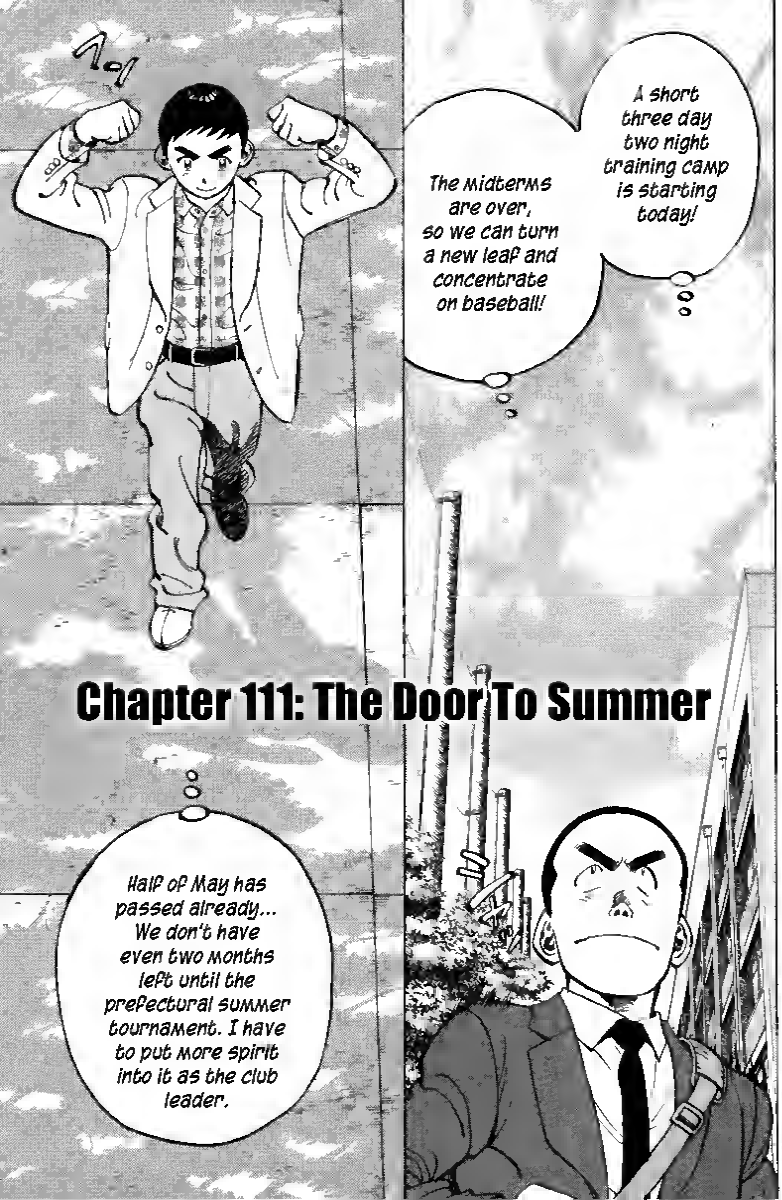

Is anything wrong?


.....
NOTHING'S WRONG, DUMBASS !!
This is bad, Yashio... Hidaka-san has noticed it.


Your unfaithfulness.

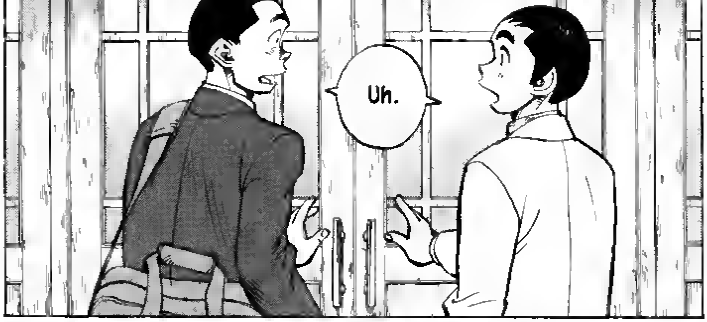

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TRANSLATOR
CLEANER
TYPESETTER
QC'ER
Cmertb
Deakachu
PANA
Bearking
LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

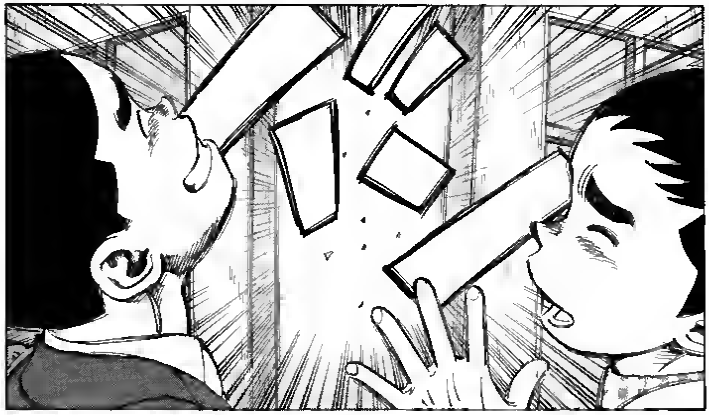

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#E-A@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://Z15.INVISIONFREE.COM/ENDLESS_ABYSS

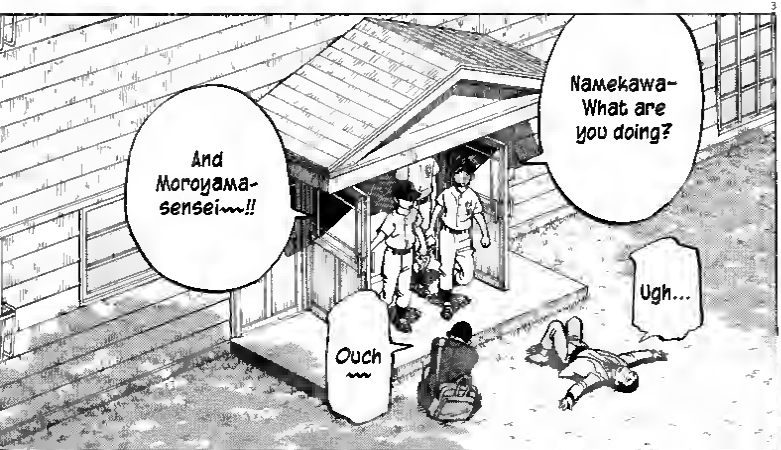

A short three day two night training camp is starting today!
The midterms are over, so we can turn a new leaf and concentrate on baseball!
Chapter 111: The Door To Summer
Half of May has passed already... We don't have even two months left until the prefectural summer tournament. I have to put more spirit into it as the club leader.


I don't know what the theme for the first one is, but I have to keep up...
Leading to the summer tournament, the Coach has selected some themes and said we'll have three or four short training camps.
If they don't apply themselves to studying a little more, they won't keep pace with the team.
But Hidaka and Iwatsuki have to take make-up classes...


AL-RIGHT !!
AW-RIIIGHT !!
No, I'll take the initiative and pull everyone along. As the captain!
But guiding them in that is the club leader's responsibility!


Uh.

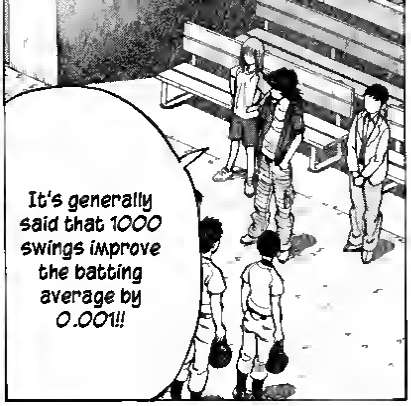



Namekawa-
What are
you doing?
Ugh...
Ouch
And
Moroyama-
sensei~~!!

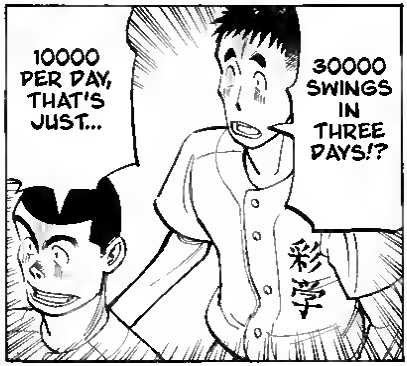

Starting today, we'll have a "short and fun training camp No. 1".
During the exam period, you were probably just itching to play baseball as hard as you could?


What's he plotting...!?
He's grinning...
Our first theme will be batting!!


And so
Our goal is to improve everyone's average by 0.03!!

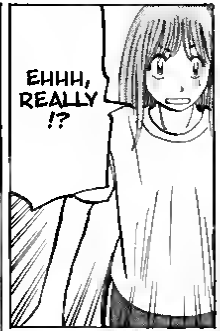

It's generally said that 1000 swings improve the batting average by 0.001!!

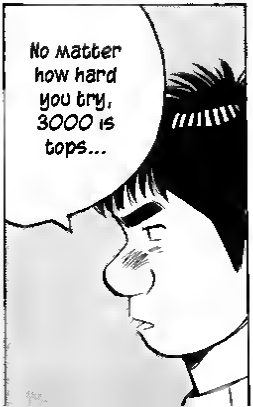

DON'T GET SCARED BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN TRIED IT!!

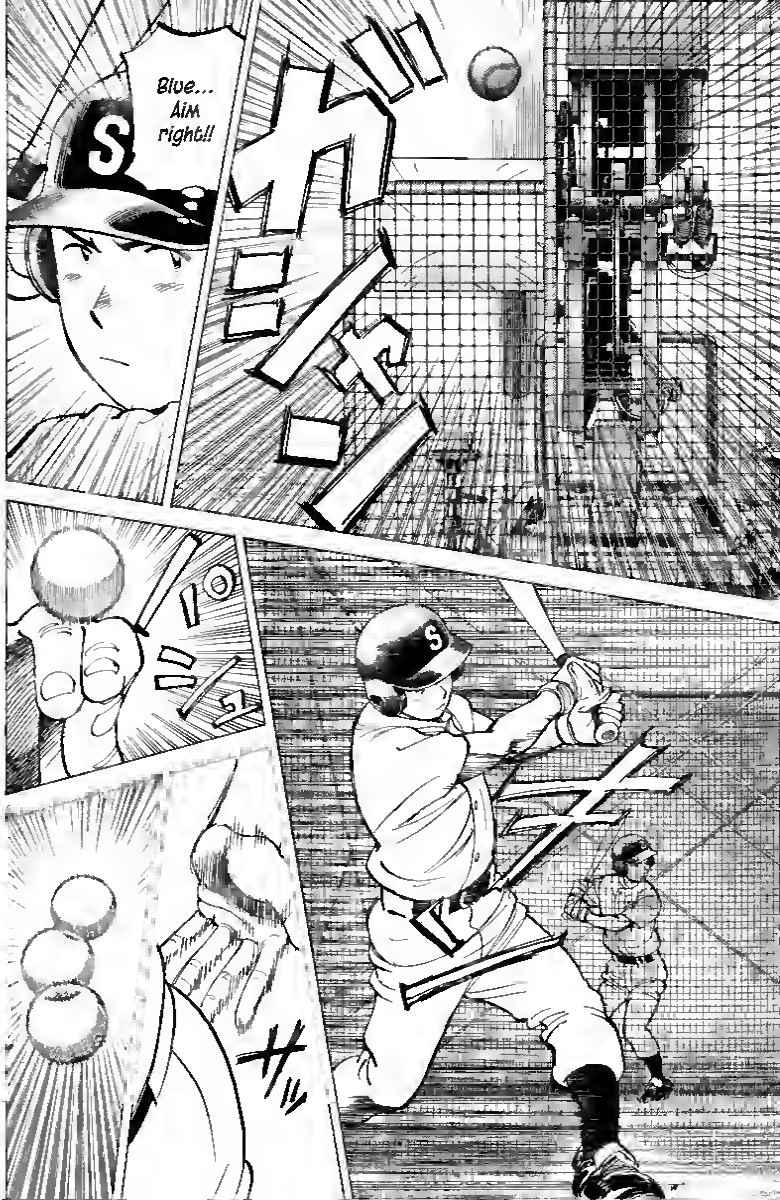

10000 PER DAY, THAT'S JUST...
30000 SWINGS IN THREE DAYS!?
彩学


...That means...

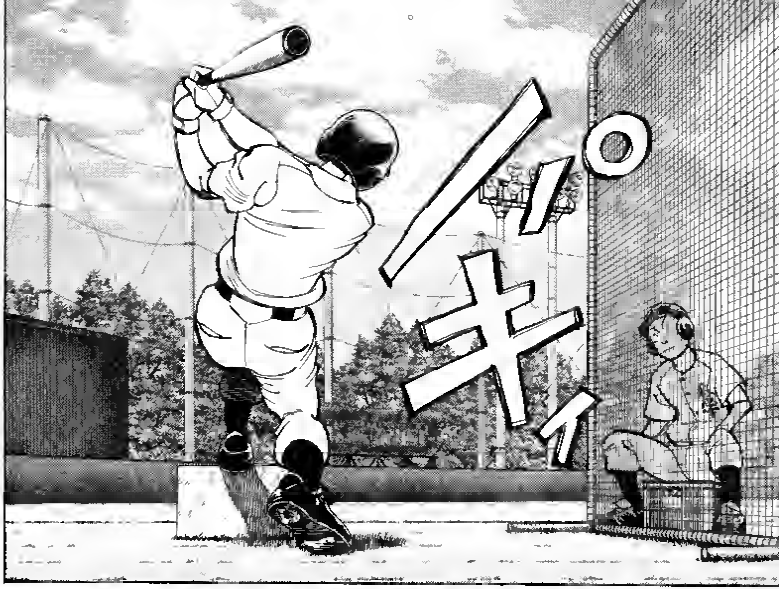

So go at it with those feelings !!

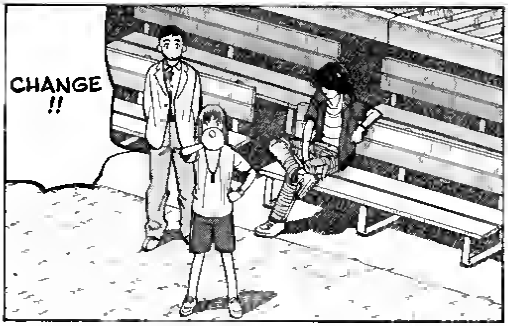

EHHH, REALLY !?

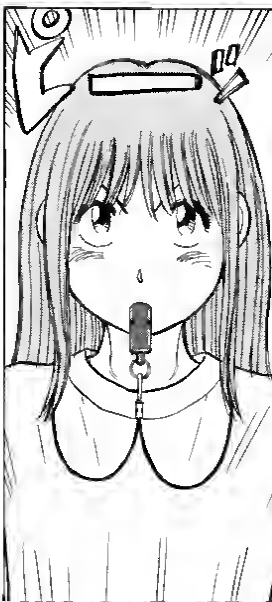

No matter how hard you try, 3000 is tops...


Blue... Aim right!!
S
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
S


LOW!!
Hoh.
カキ
キ
ズ
CHANGE!!

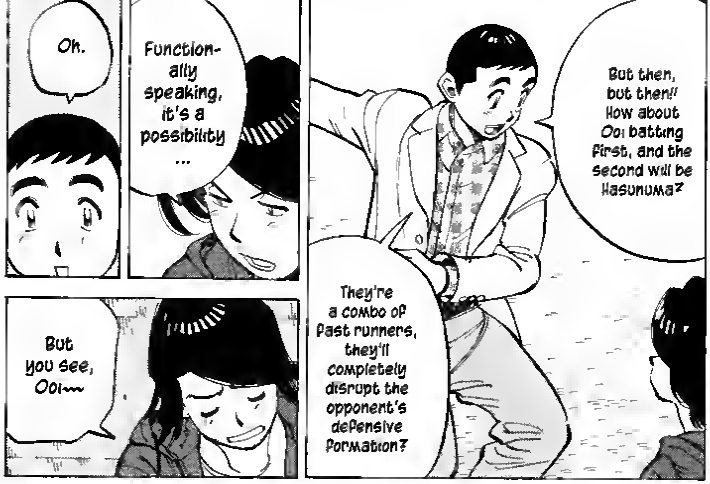

ハイ

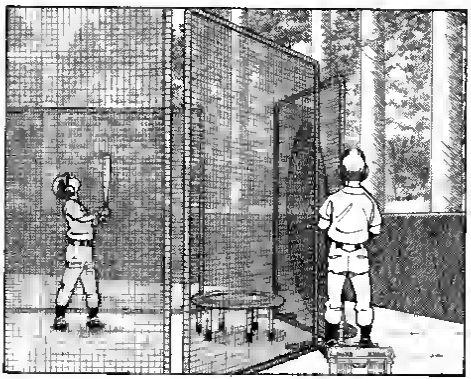

CHANGE
!!




You've quit splitting them into the ABC groups, and it's finally time to perfect batting.


That won't happen. Only the fourth batter Takeshi and the sixth Namekawa might get solidified
For the time being, we've set up the first batter Hidaka as No. 0 for the sake of winning...
Just under two months are left until summer. So here we concentrate on training to solidify our batting lineup...
Ideally, Hidaka should be third.
Thinking of the burden on the catcher in this extreme heat, I want to put him seventh.
Second and third should move up, with Ooi batting first, and Yashio second.
In that case, No. 0 Hidaka should go back to third.
That's so simple-minded. You're such a happy-go-lucky bastard, honestly.

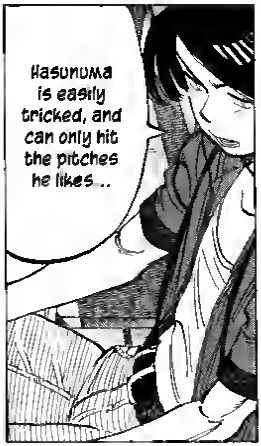

Oh.
Functionally speaking, it's a possibility ...
But then, but then!! How about Ooi batting first, and the second will be Hasunuma?
They're a combo of fast runners, they'll completely disrupt the opponent's defensive formation?
But you see, Ooi~~




ガシン

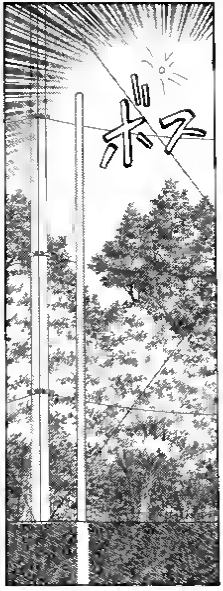

Even though he's fast, he easily hits fly balls, he's bad at calmly looking at the pitch, and he regularly swings at balls.


ガッ

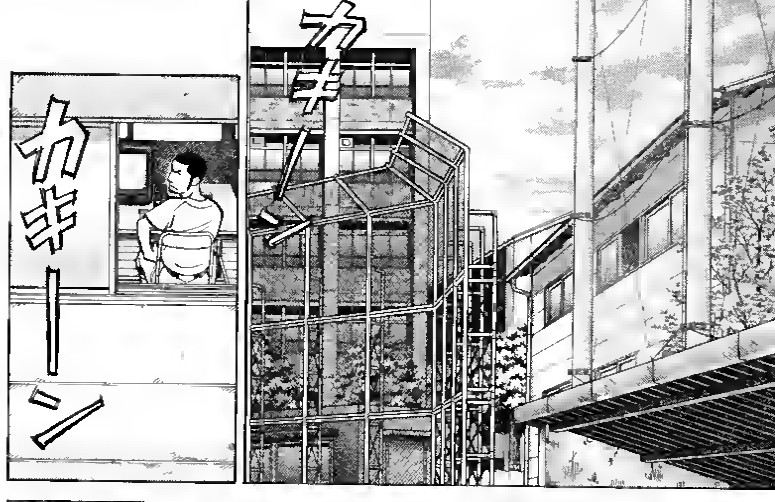

Hasunuma is easily tricked, and can only hit the pitches he likes...


And he's a very emotional player. To make him the second batter...
DID YOU SEE THAT? WASN'T THAT AN AWESOME HIT!?


OHOH, AWE-SOME!!


ボス


That's true. Hitting only what he likes is just like KamiFukuoka.


カキーン
カキーン


Hey, Fuku-chan, over here!!




Y- Yeah!


LET'S WATCH SOME VIDS, HUNDREDS OF THEM, THOUSANDS, WHATEVER!!
AW-RIGHT, LET'S GO!!
彩学
彩学


Wasn't it a changeup?
What was that pitch just now? A Pork?


We're done with the make-up classes. Sorry for being late!
彩学


In that case, No. 2 should be ..
Yeah.


Iwatsuki, are you seriously working there, in your make-up classes?
OF COURSE I AM!
Even though you tried to peek at my test ——
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE MY CRIB SHEET WASN'T ALL THAT...
I heard from Iruma
AH!!
彩学
Hoho.
.....
That you did good in Japanese history







15








Hidaka will bat.



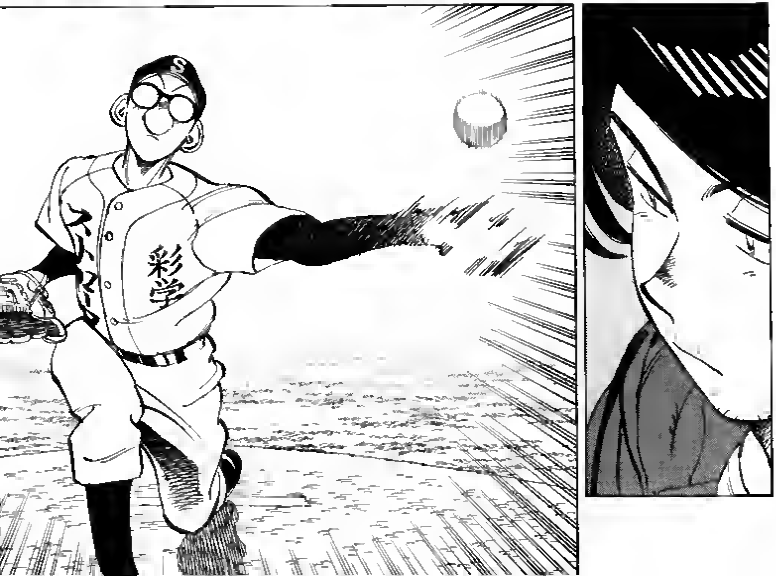

Alright, let's start fielding practice now —!!
Steve will pitch.
YES!

16

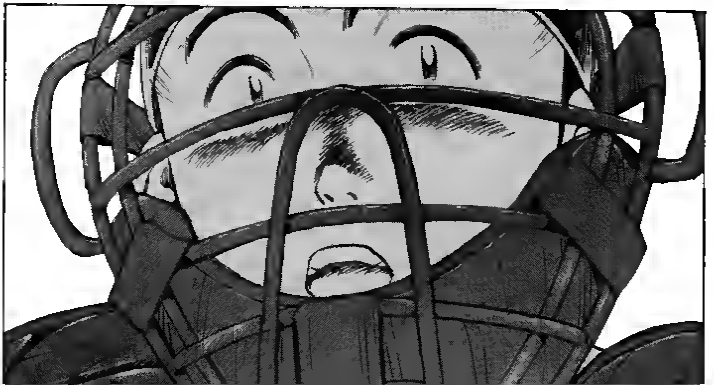

It's your chance, Steve. If you can hold back a batter of Hidaka-san's class, you're the real deal.

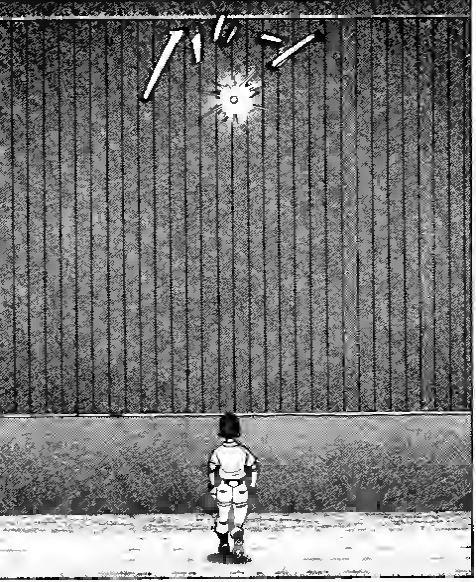

This training camp might be pretty fun.
Doesn't it seem like real batting practice?


Alright, let's go. A fastball to the inside...
I'm sure everyone will be surprised at how fast you've become.


彩学


バシィ




バーン



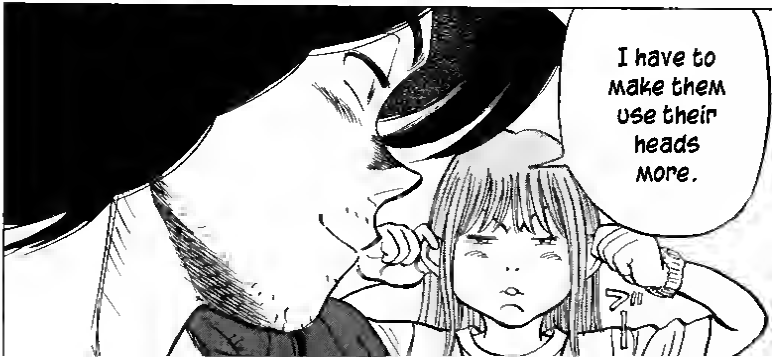

Oh...
Why, that's all there was to him...


Yashio must be shocked. He seemed happy that Steve's pitches had gotten faster.


How come!? Even though the speed of his pitches has gone up...


EH, THEY'RE GOING TO STUDY AT NIGHT~~?
How lame~~!


Should I train them properly tonight?
That means they all have much to learn yet.

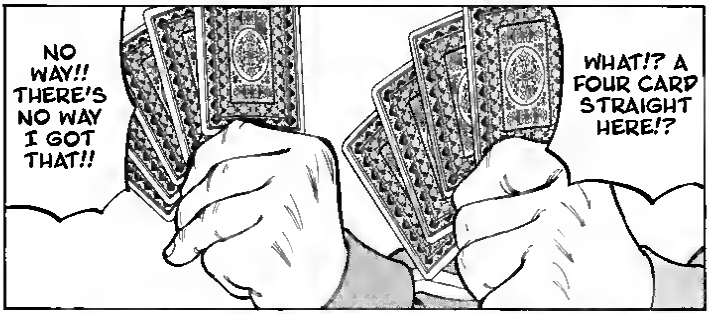

I have to make them use their heads more.


ENDLESS
ABYSS
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TRANSLATOR
CLEANER
TYPESETTER
QC'ER
Cmertb
Deakachu
PANA
LordLestat
LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

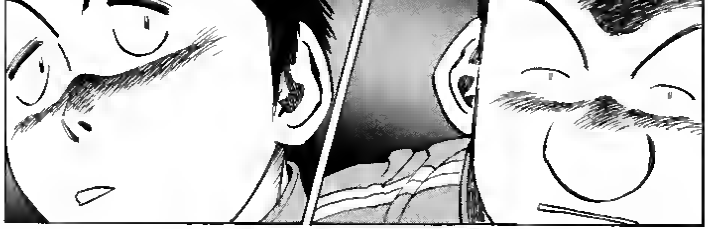

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Chapter 112: Mind Gymnastics





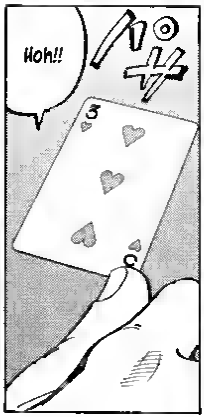


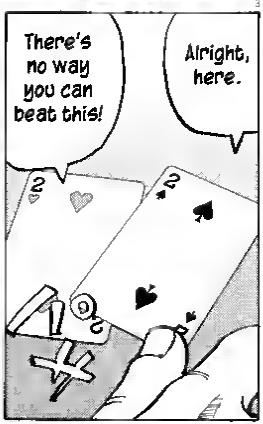
2




How's it gonna be, Kawaguchi, you're playing anything?
Yeah.
Eh~~ You got one~~!?
So naive ~~
With this hand, you won't have much left, will you?
It's a king Are you sure you won't play your ace?
Pass.
So, who's next? Don't worry too much, don't worry.
Pass.

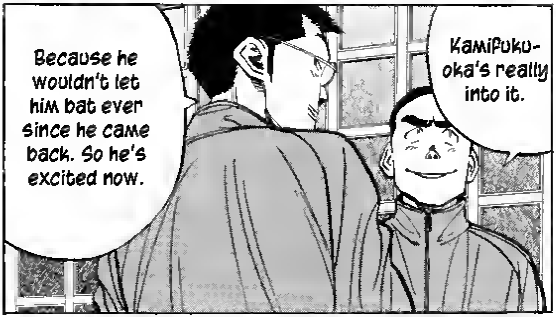

I'M OUT!!


Hoh!!


There's no way you can beat this!
Alright, here.


Coach!! Whoever is first in the end, are you really going to have him bat tomorrow during free batting?
Yeah.


Shi~~ This is bad~~
Are you taking your frustration over having to only watch videos out on us?
Say whatever you want!!


Because he wouldn't let him bat ever since he came back. So he's excited now.
Kamipuku-oka's really into it.


Aw-right, I'll win it all!!!

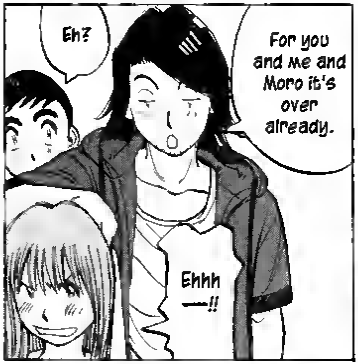

Besides, you get 20 minutes instead of 10 for first place. That's double!!

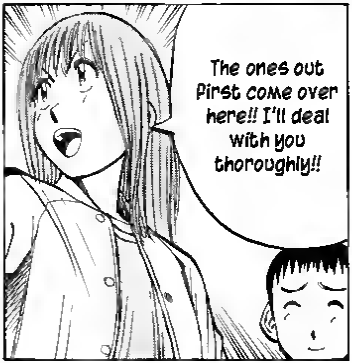

Manager, you don't have anything to do with batting practice, so you don't have to get so excited...
I'M OUT—!!
NO MATTER WHAT THE MATCH IS ABOUT, IT'S MEANINGLESS UNLESS YOU WIN. IF I GET FIRST PLACE, I'LL BAT TOO!!
Huhuhu. What should I do...
Everyone, pass? Then we start with me again?
I'm sure he's thinking that this is all to deepen the harmony within the team.
He looks like he's having fun...


I thought he's grown up a little and would say "Could this Daihinmin tournament have something to do with deciding the batting order?"...
Let me think.
Ah, sorry, my turn.
Eh?
It's just a five... But are you thinking I have something amazing up my sleeve?
Alright!
.....
But his face says he's not thinking at all.
Oheh !?
It's over.

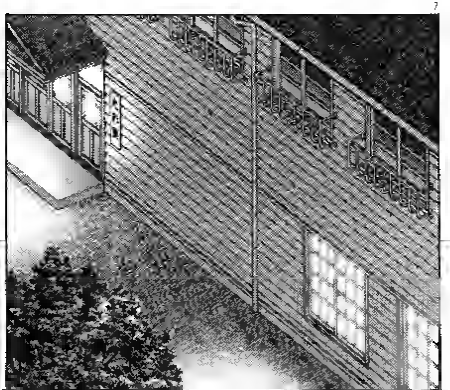

Create new groups of 6 from those who get out. It's the second round.
Al-right.
Yes?


Uwah~~ He got me~~
You're happy-go-lucky as usual.


Eh?
For you and me and Moro it's over already.
Ehhh ——!!


The ones out first come over here!! I'll deal with you thoroughly!!

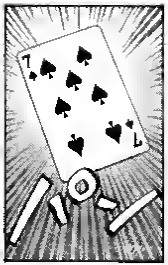

I thought I'd use this to grasp their personalities to help in deciding the batting order, but they really split up perfectly.




Group A that formed from all the winners is full of guys who are aiming to win...
...The fact that Iwatsuki is among them is quite a discovery.



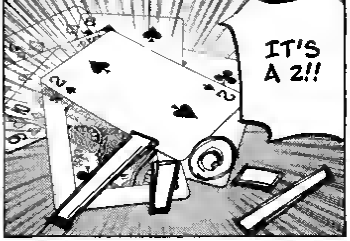

You're charging recklessly, Kamifukuoka. In contrast ..
Something like a 7 is really over-stretching yourself.



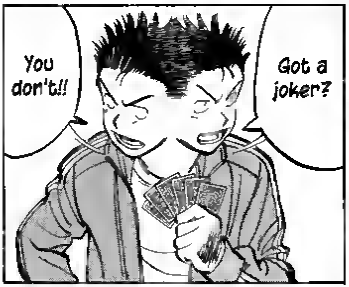

7!!


I'll be sure to win! If I'm out first, it's the third round for me!!


Pass.
As expected, Takeshi has the cleanup's style. He's preserving his strong cards, aiming to wager the match all at once on the best chance that comes along.
And then Hidaka ..

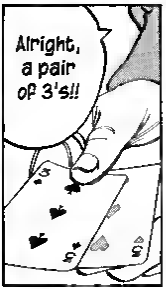

IT'S A 2!!

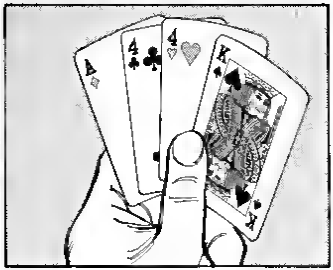



You don't!!
Got a joker?


He's probably not thinking about what would happen if someone played a pair of jokers?
He's easy to figure out. Cut with the 2, get rid of weak cards, and then try to pull through with the ace and the king...?



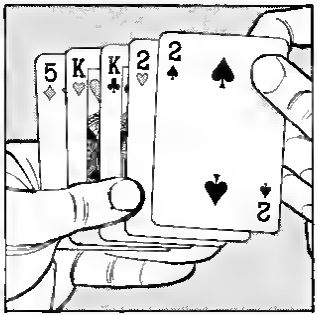

Alright, a pair of 3's!!

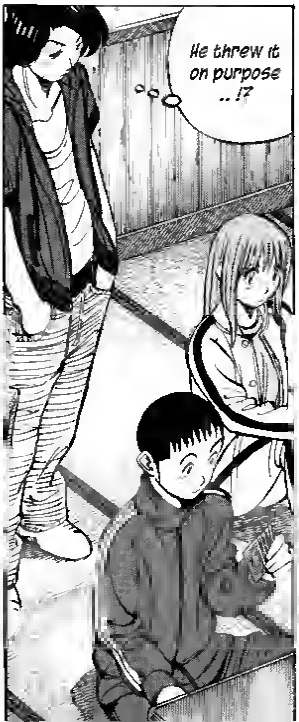


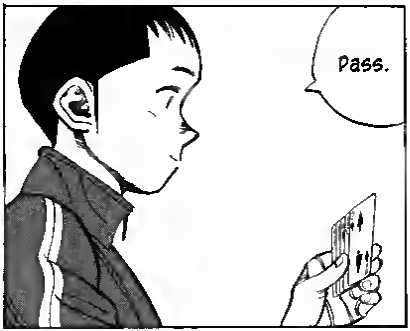

In the end, with such set moves he can only be the No. 0 batter...
Eh, you're playing?
That's so like him...
I can do higher than 3 at least.
So boring
Yashio is good at these well-thought out plays, but.

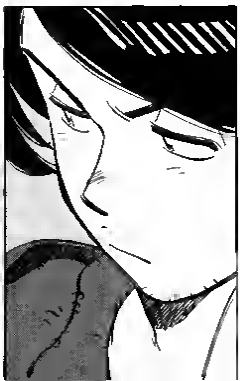

What is he troubled by...? Don't tell me it's about how Hidaka hit Steve's pitch this afternoon...?

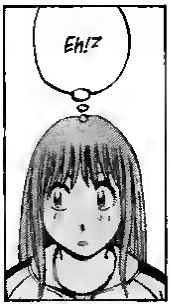



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2
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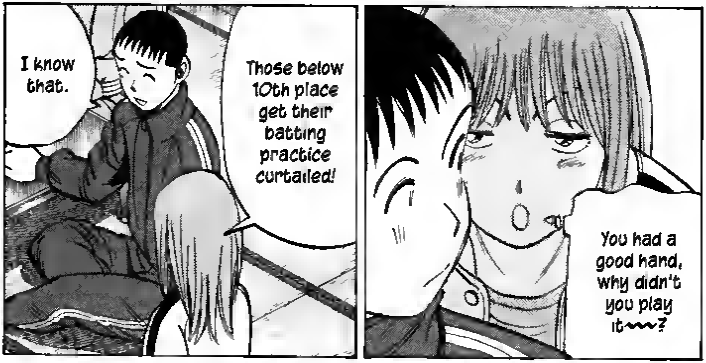

He threw it on purpose..!?

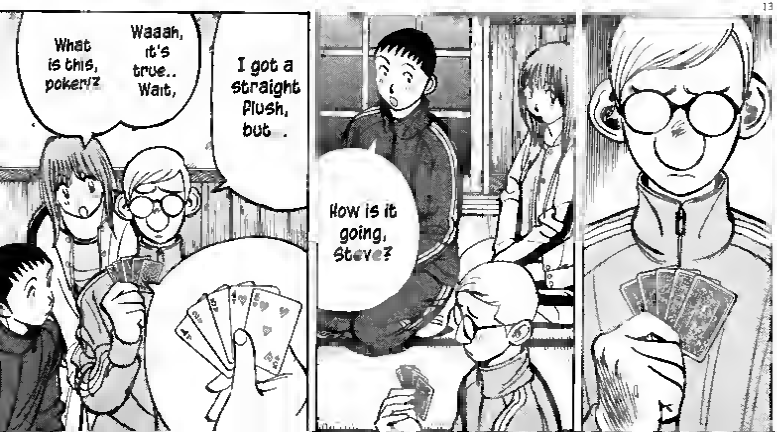

Pass.

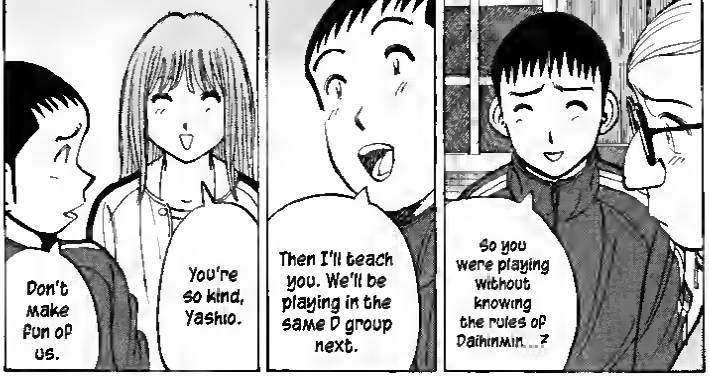


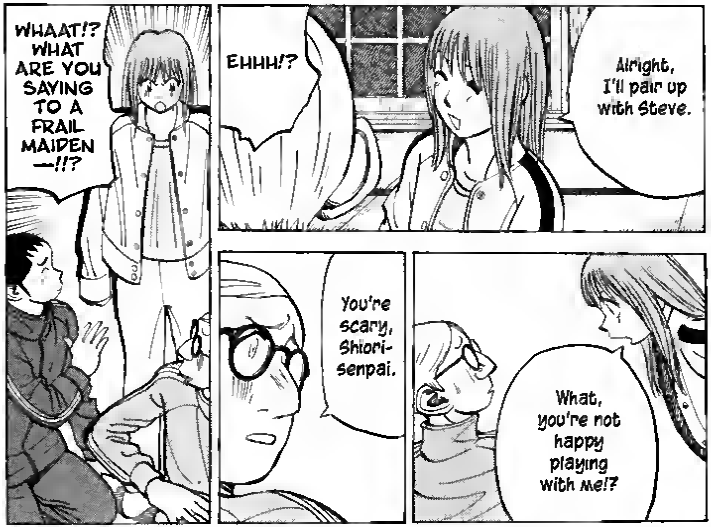

Eh!?

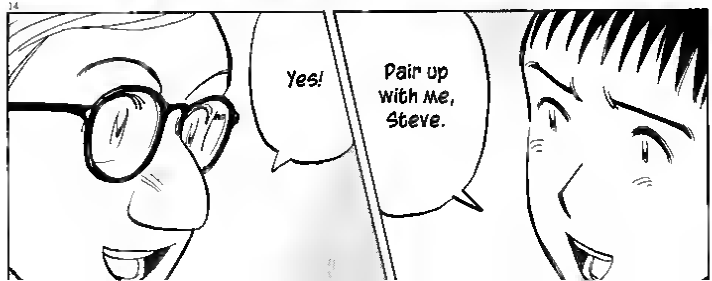

I lost.
Shit, this sucks —
HELL YEAH — I'M FIRST IN THE SECOND ROUND TOO!!
I'm second.. Next time, for sure..


I know that.
Those below 10th place get their batting practice curtailed!
You had a good hand, why didn't you play it~?


What is this, poker!?
Waaah, it's true.. Wait,
I got a straight flush, but .
How is it going, Steve?


Don't make fun of us.
You're so kind, Yashio.
Then I'll teach you. We'll be playing in the same D group next.
So you were playing without knowing the rules of Daihinmin...?


WHAAT!? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO A FRAIL MAIDEN —!!?
EHHH!?
Alright, I'll pair up with Steve.
You're scary, Shiori-senpai.
What, you're not happy playing with me!?

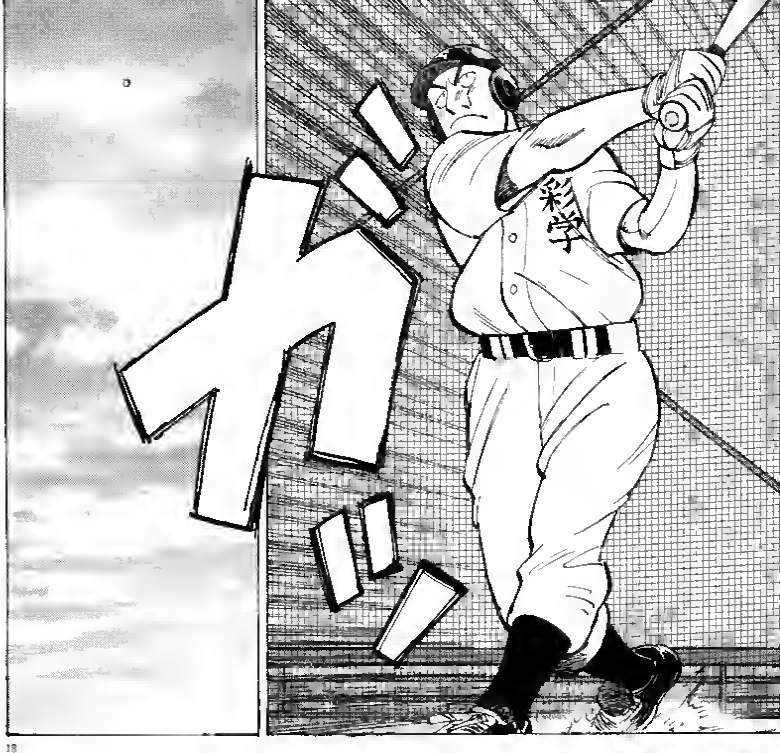

Yes!
Pair up with me, Steve.

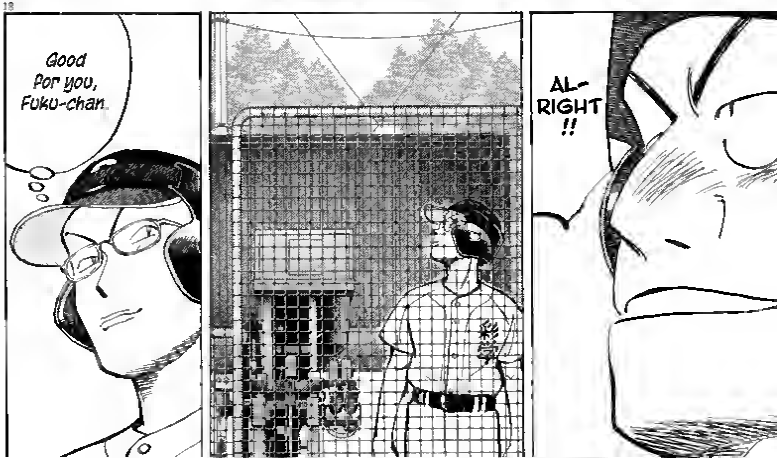

You're not good for anything but anime characters, you damn otaku!!
I see, so he wants to spend as much time as possible with Steve, to find out more about him...
15
There's all sorts of stuff I gotta do.
Moro, I'm leaving the rest to you. Please report the final results.
Eh? Are you going back to your room?
By all sorts, don't you mean going back to the room to have a drink?
You moron!


Kahah —
I'm revived
—
コキュ
コキュ

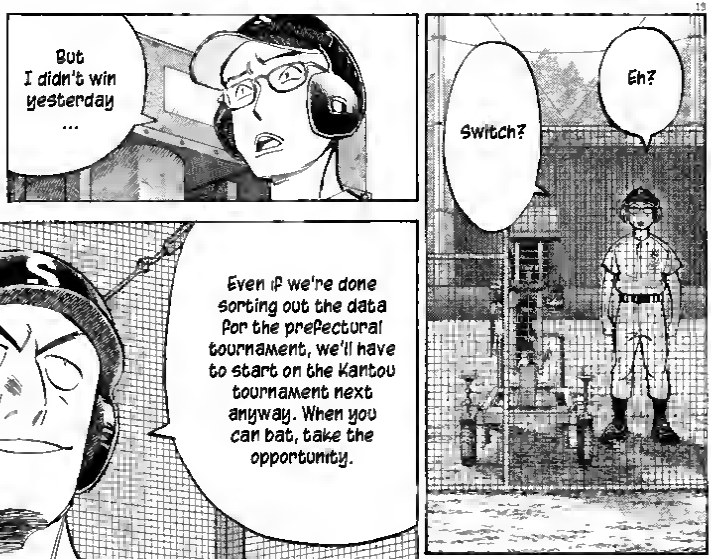

SPRING TOURNAMENT
KASUGANO DAIEI
VS
BESSHO ACADEMY
And
now.
I've
improved
my opinion
of the video
group.
It's
pretty
well
categor-
ized.


Alright. From here, it's my job.
Whether we make good use of the data or waste it depends on my analysis...!!
ドサッ

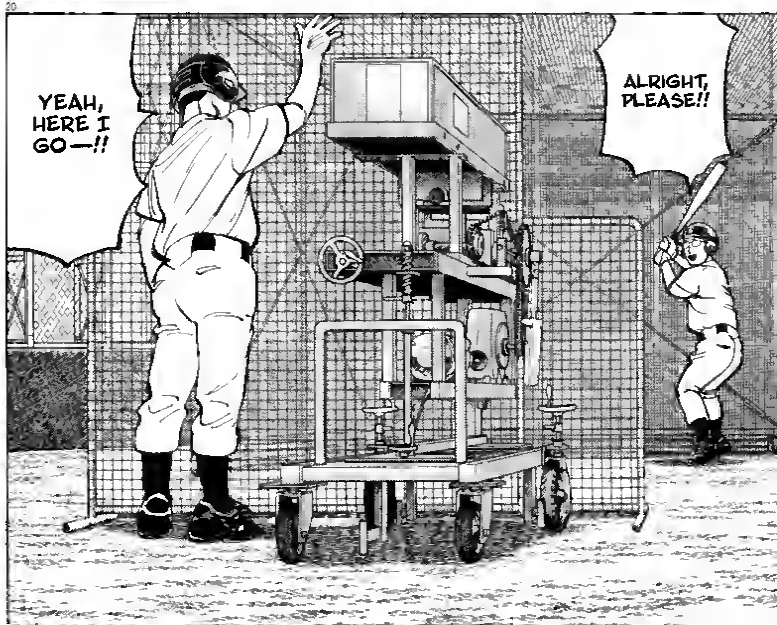

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Good for you, Fuku-chan.
AL-RIGHT !!


How much time is left?
Err, it's 15 minutes exactly, so 5 minutes left.
Kurihashi, let's switch.
Eh?


But I didn't win yesterday ...
Switch?
Eh?
Even if we're done sorting out the data for the prefectural tournament, we'll have to start on the Kantou tournament next anyway. When you can bat, take the opportunity.


He uses his own time for a friend... He's grown, that Kamifukuoka ...
We'll pick up the balls.
Go hit, Kurihashi.


YEAH, HERE I GO—!!
ALRIGHT, PLEASE!!


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CLEANER
TYPESETTER
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Deakachu
PANA
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A SHAMELESS E-A RECRUITMENT PAGE
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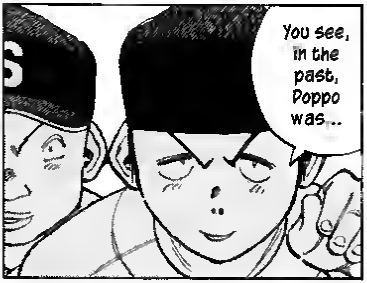
Chapter 113: Dangerous Information



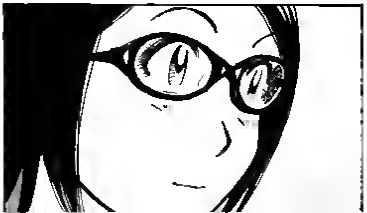

Sorry, I've been a little busy.


Nacchan, you haven't come here often lately, we miss you.
Thank you very much!


Yeah, that time.
Right!?
If only you were here the other day. We got to hear the coach's very interesting story.

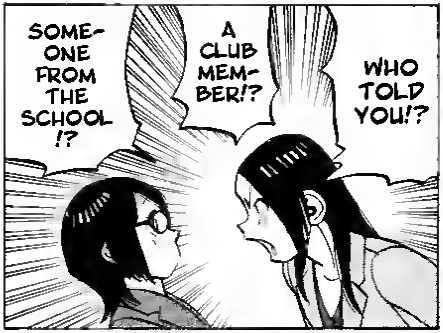

You see, in the past, Poppo was...

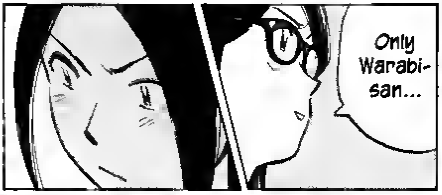

Eh? Coach Hatogaya's ?

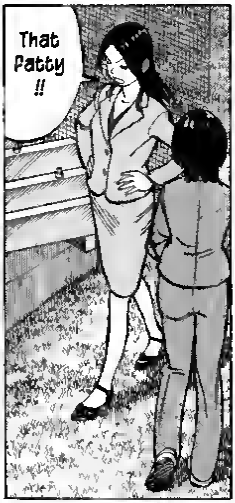


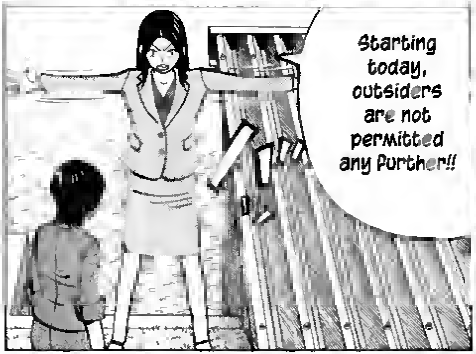

What are you doing?
Mrsa to-san.
We weren't supposed to talk about it..
CRAP!
Please pardon the intrusion.
Excuse Meee.
We got all this ~~!!

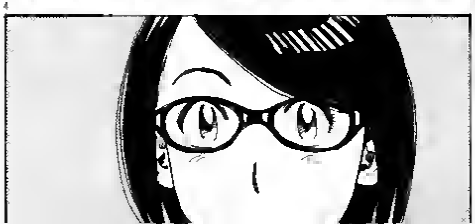

What did you come here for?
I heard you're in the middle of a training camp, so I brought something...


WHO TOLD YOU!?
A CLUB MEMBER!?
SOMEONE FROM THE SCHOOL!?


Only Warabi-san...

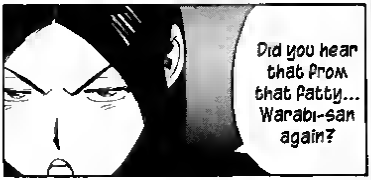

That Patty !!


Starting today, outsiders are not permitted any further!!




I heard Coach Hatogaya told an interesting story...

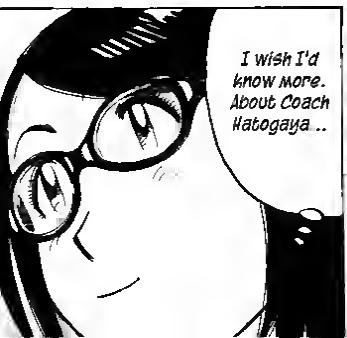

I understand. The summer tournament is close too.


Did you hear that from that fatty... Warabi-san again?


You don't have to come back!




I'll come again.
No, please excuse me.


I wish I'd know more. About Coach Hatogaya ..

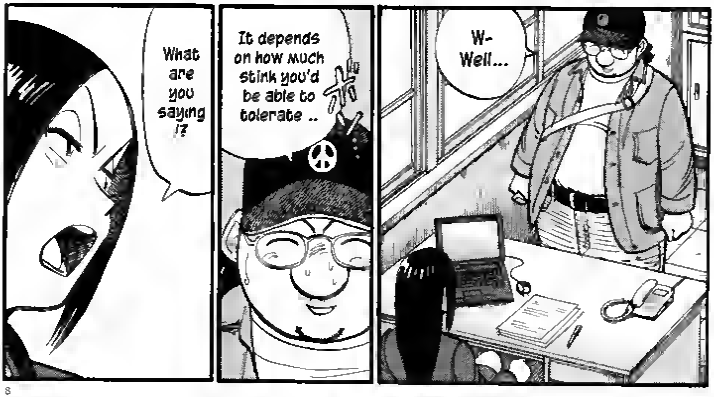

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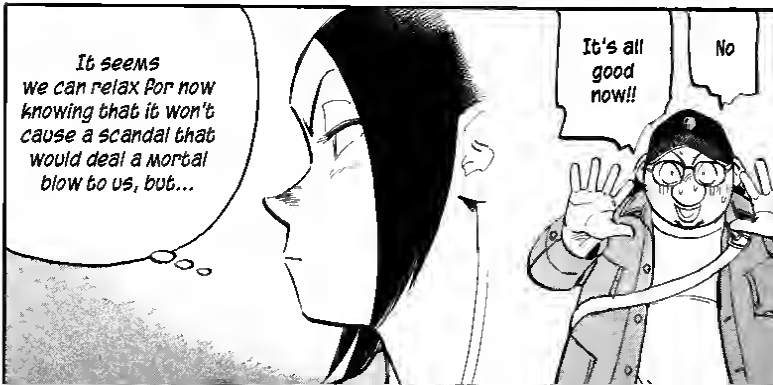

BESIDES, THAT FATTY!!
I have to give an even stricter warning to the club members not to open their mouths about that story...


There really was nothing to worry about.
Management Audit Office

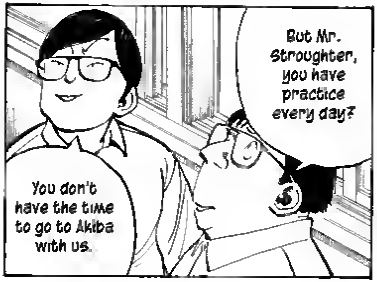

There was a little dramatization, but the general outline...
So you mean everything that Hatogaya said to the club members and their parents was true?
L- Like I said, the truth is that thinking of Hatogaya-san's future, Momotani-san forced him to return to the normal society.
Tell me the truth. The truth!!


There wasn't anything stinking there, something that we'd have to suppress!?


What are you saying!?
It depends on how much stink you'd be able to tolerate ..
W-Well...


It seems we can relax for now knowing that it won't cause a scandal that would deal a mortal blow to us, but...
It's all good now!!
No


1-C
Excuse me.
It's Yashio-senpai from the baseball club
He's cute~
It's such a waste that he's a catcher

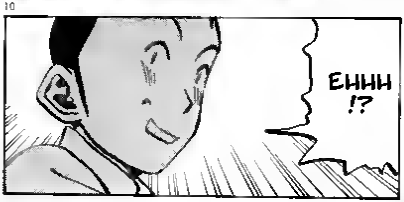


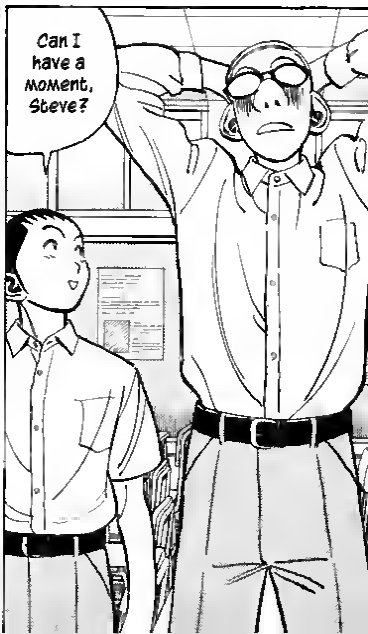


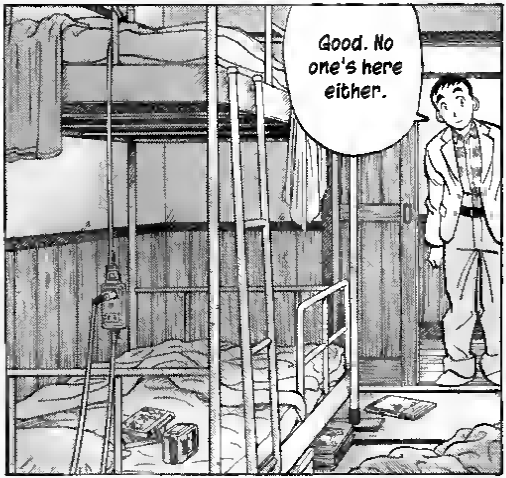


TL NOTE: OTA = SHORT FOR OTAKU



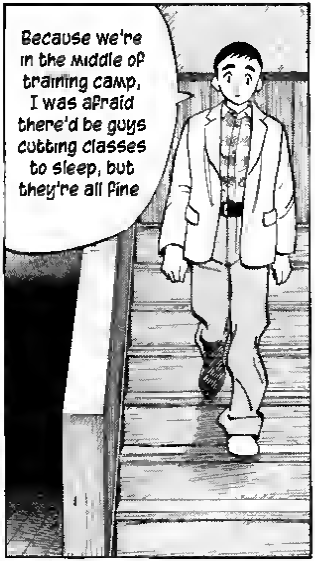


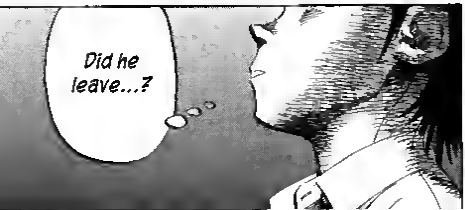



Good. No one's here either.


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-
JU
KU

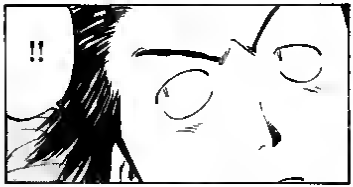


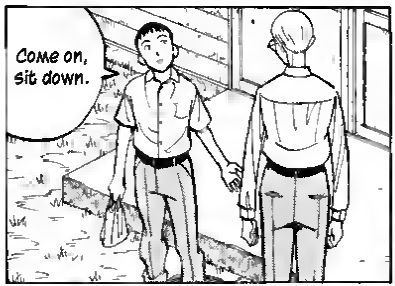

Because we're in the middle of training camp, I was afraid there'd be guys cutting classes to sleep, but they're all fine

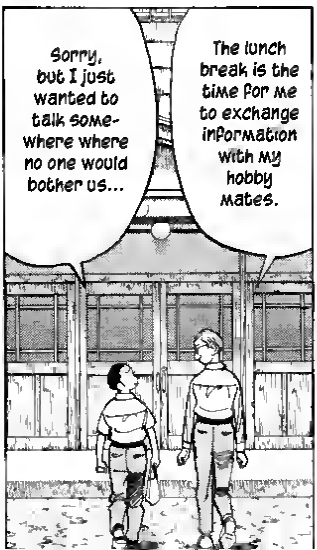

Did he leave...?


This is a problem, Yashio-san.


They're so boring, I don't care about the afternoon classes...

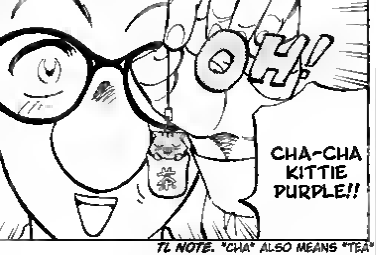

!!


Come on, sit down.

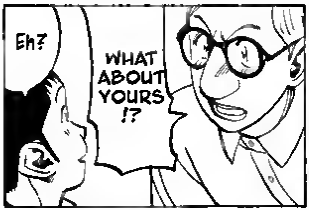

Sorry, but I just wanted to talk some-where where no one would bother us...
The lunch break is the time for me to exchange information with my hobby mates.

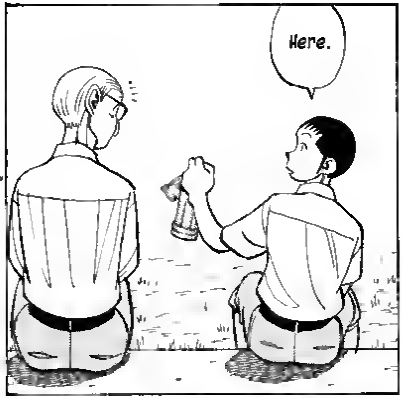
12



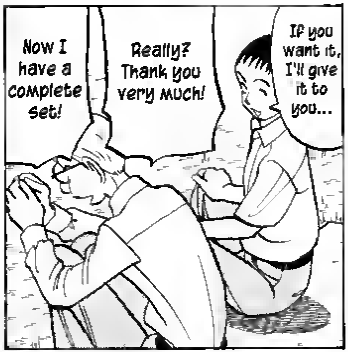


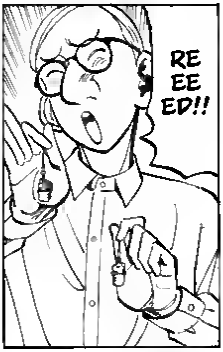
TL NOTE. "CHA" ALSO MEANS "TEA"





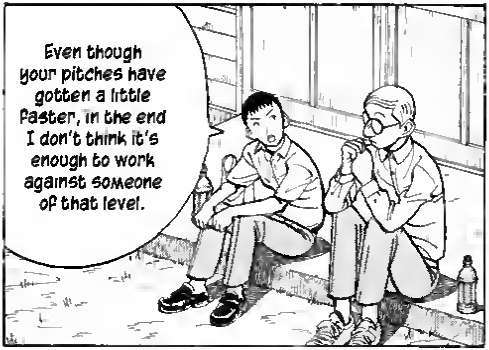


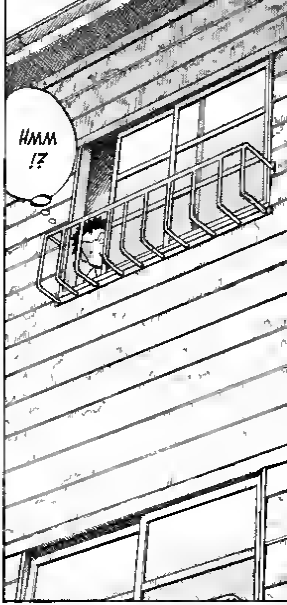


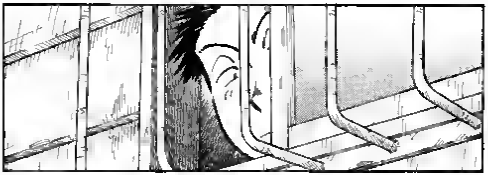




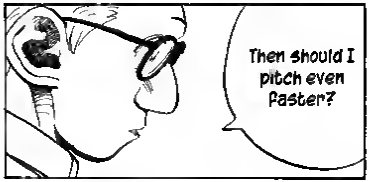



Even though your pitches have gotten a little faster, in the end I don't think it's enough to work against someone of that level.


HMM !?




I was thinking that if your fast pitches were faster, your slow pitches would seem slower, and that's why I've been telling you throw faster all this time.


Then should I pitch even faster?




Yeah...
If you had a fast fastball, we could make better use of that slow ball that's your other weapon.

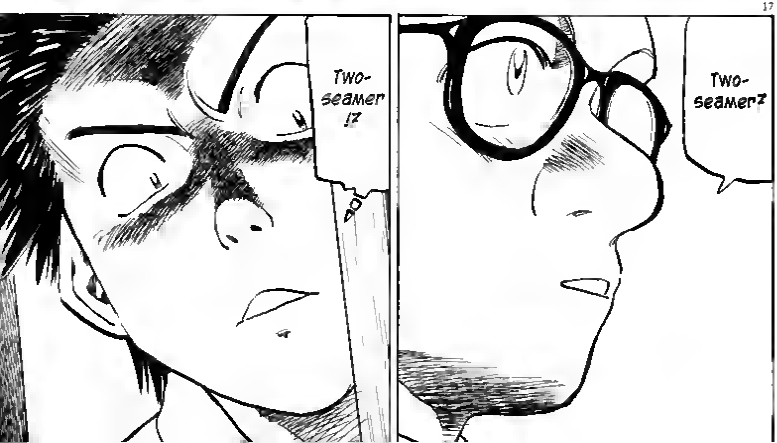

If that slow palmball-like pitch is about 90 km...
It's a bigger difference than between Hidaka-san's 140 km fastball and 120 km slider.
Then if you throw a 120 km fastball, the difference is 30 km!!
彩学


So I thought.
But I doubt it's possible to get even faster soon.
Damn right.

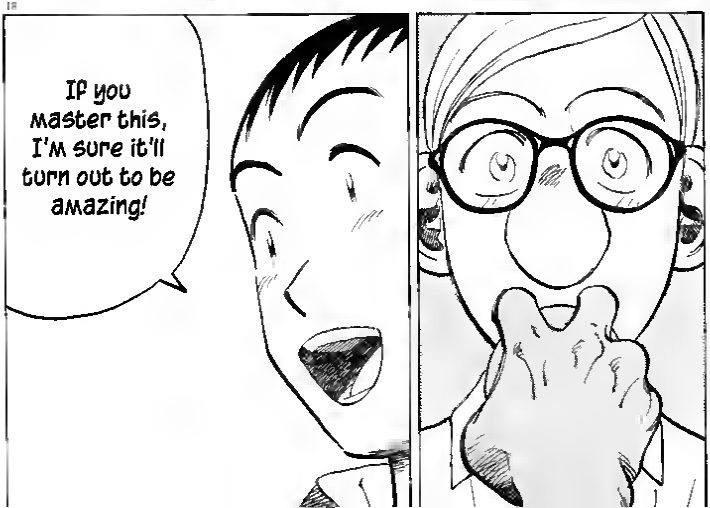
16

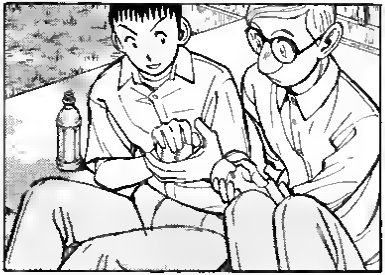

If you put your index and middle fingers on the ball's seams and grip it like this...
An American like you would probably know this...

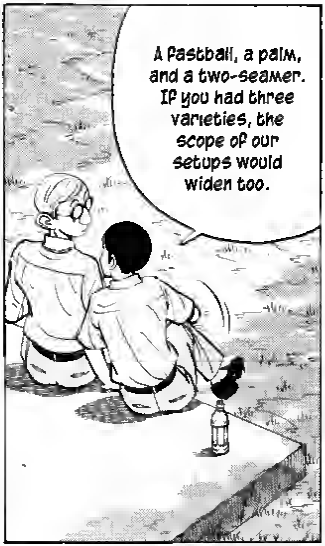

It's a popular pitch in the Majors called a two-seamer...


Two-seamer !?
Two-seamer?


If you throw it straight like a fastball, it'll be a reasonably fast breaking ball that'll fall as if sinking.


If you master this, I'm sure it'll turn out to be amazing!

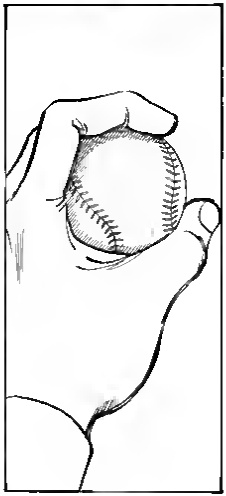



A fastball, a palm, and a two-seamer. If you had three varieties, the scope of our setups would widen too.




So, won't you try it!?


Let's practice together now in preparation for that!
If we keep winning, then it's only natural that we'd need two pitchers in the quarter or the semi-final.




I'm sure your turn to play will come in the summer tournament!
Yes...

20

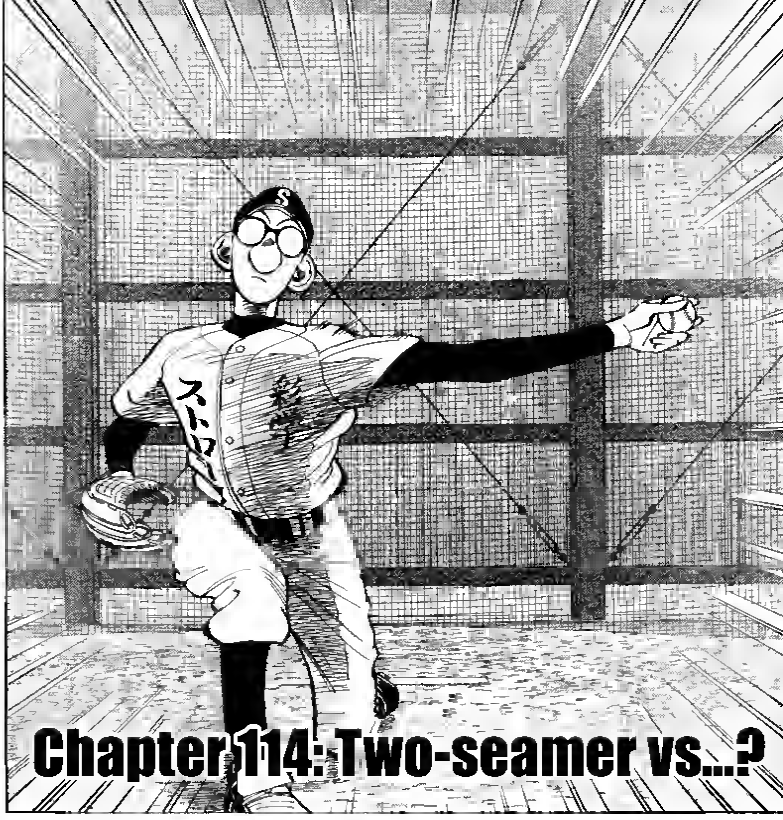

That bean-stalk's turn...!?
Yashio, that bastard... He's messing with me!!

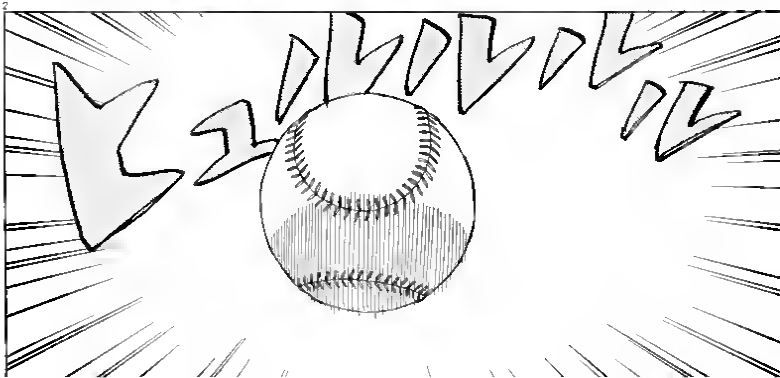

ENDLESS
ABYSS
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TRANSLATOR
CLEANER
TYPESETTER
QC'ER
Cmertb
Deakachu
PANA
LordLestat
LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

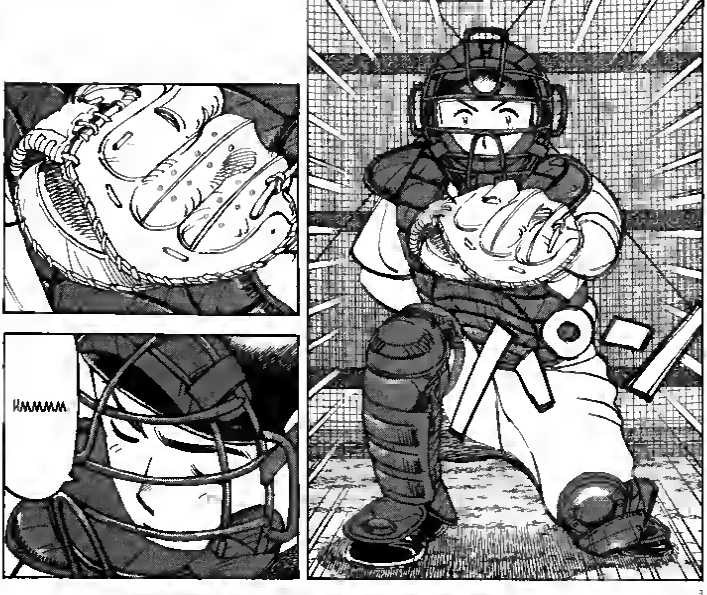

A SHAMELESS E-A RECRUITMENT PAGE
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APPLY ON OUR FORUM OR TALK TO STAFF ON IRC.
#E-A@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://Z15.INVISIONFREE.COM/ENDLESS_ABYSS



Chapter 114: Two-seamer vs...?


Chapter 114: Two-seamer vs...?

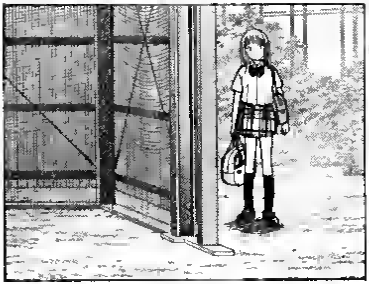



Hmmmm

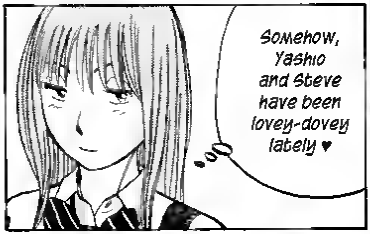

Show me how you grip for a two-seamer?


This is strange... A two-seamer is supposed to sway and sink more than this...
スパイダー


Two-seam fastball




It doesn't look wrong...


Somehow, Yashio and Steve have been lovey-dovey lately ♥



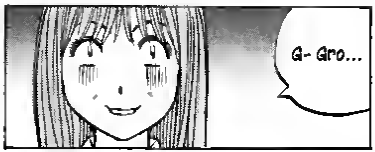

When it comes to Steve, he's really giving it his all.


Oh!?

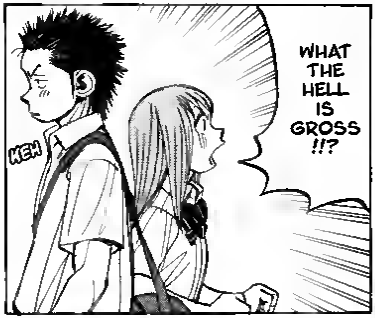

Hidaka-san...!
Someone who's habitually late is early today!!
Good morn-iiiing.
What brings you here so early?
Is there anything wrong with coming early?
Not really, but...
Uwah, so unlov-able.


Bullpen ...?
This is bad! Finally, caught red-handed at the scene of infidelity?


You musn't worry!! Our ace is Hidaka-san!!


G- Gro...

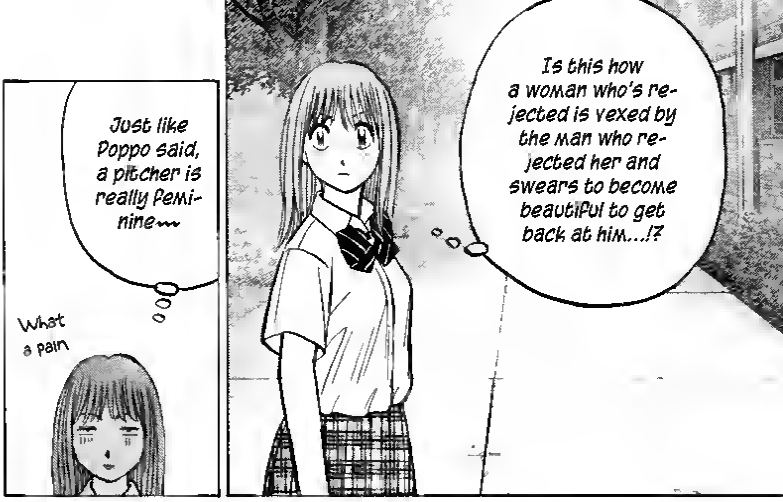

WH- WHAT THE HELL!? IT'S GROSS!!

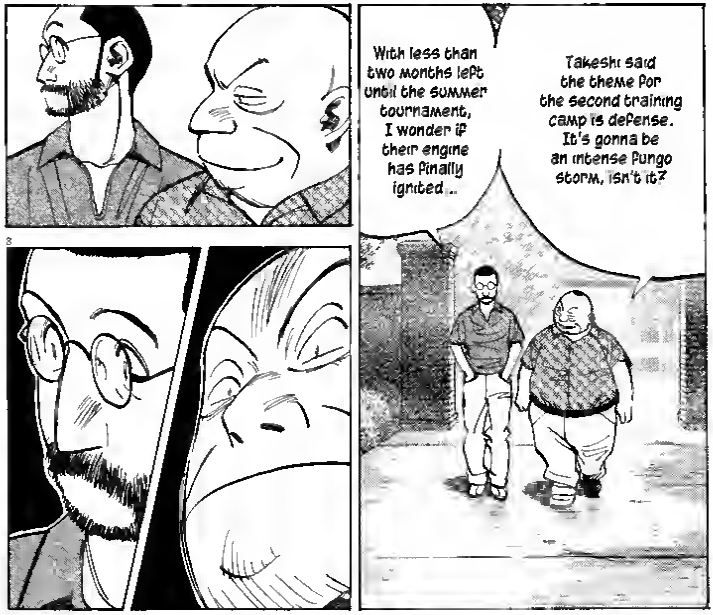

KEH
WHAT THE HELL IS GROSS !!?

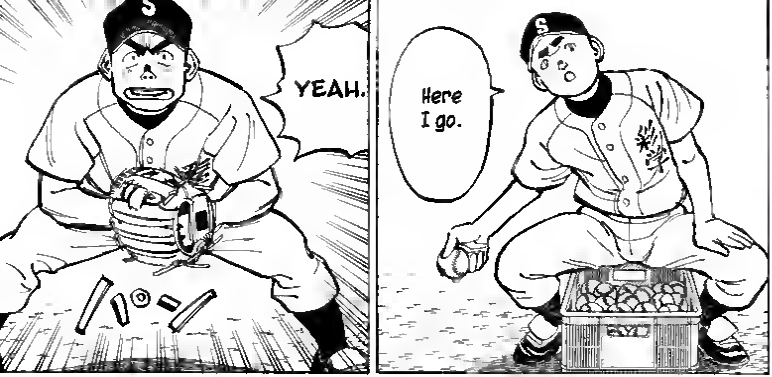

That bastard Yashio. I'll show him who's better!!

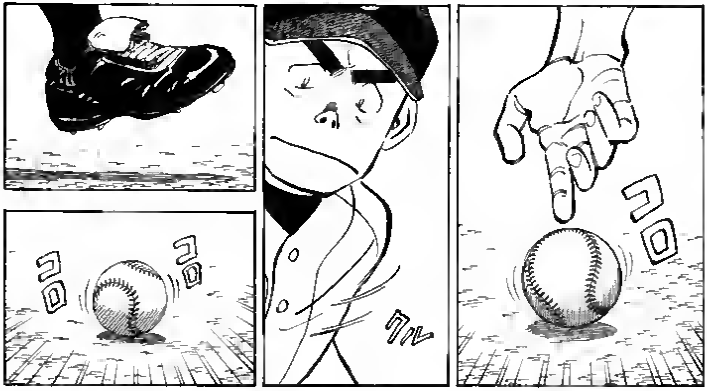

They're doing whatever they please!!


Eh?


Is this how a woman who's rejected is vexed by the man who rejected her and swears to become beautiful to get back at him...!?
Just like Poppo said, a pitcher is really feminine...
What a pain

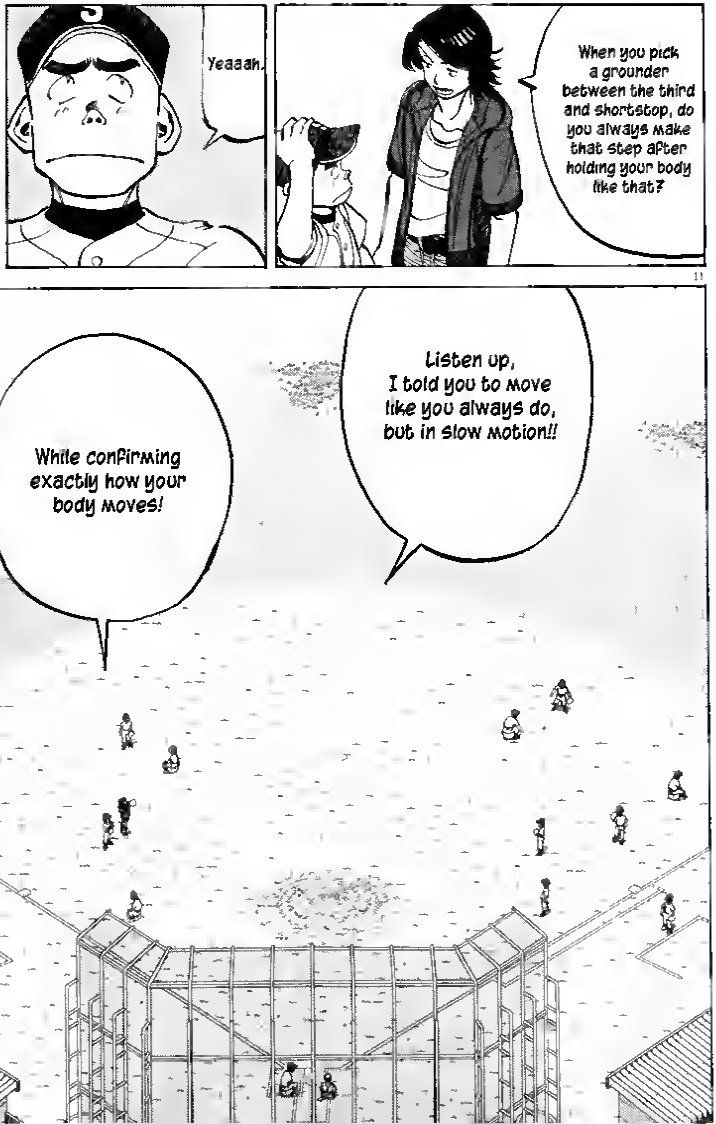

Takeshi said the theme for the second training camp is defense. It's gonna be an intense fungo storm, isn't it?
With less than two months left until the summer tournament, I wonder if their engine has finally ignited...


YEAH.
Here I go.



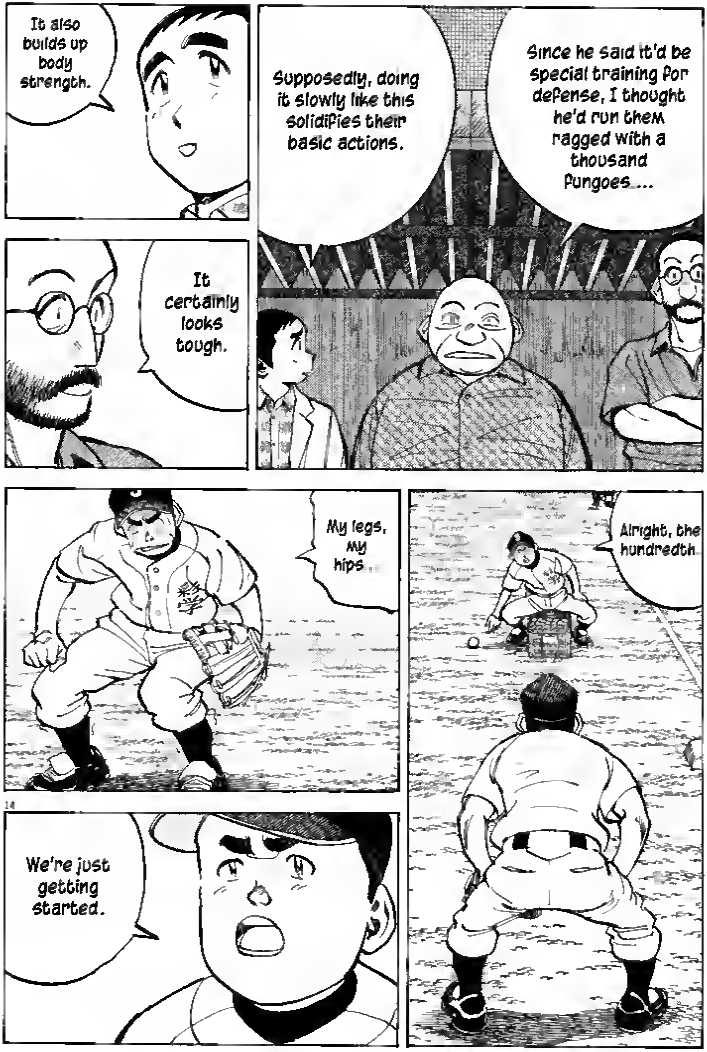

Slowly, slowly.
Stay true to the basics.


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パコーン
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Yeaaah.
When you pick a grounder between the third and shortstop, do you always make that step after holding your body like that?
11
Listen up, I told you to move like you always do, but in slow motion!!
While confirming exactly how your body moves!


Given that distance, you always take two steps, Hasunuma-san.
Eh? Really?
Three..
Slowly, one step.. two steps ..
LOWER YOUR HIPS MORE! YOU'RE TOO HIGH!
THIS IS HARD ON THE LEGS 〰
UHI!

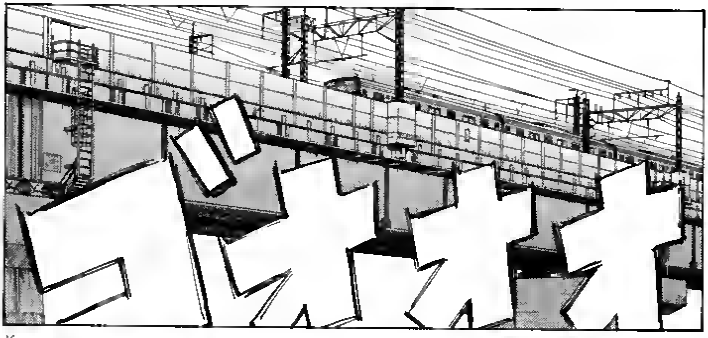

Which do I move first?
Right foot? Left foot?
Oh?
Hmm? Huh?
Slowly, slowly...
A bunt to first base.
13


It also builds up body strength.
Supposedly, doing it slowly like this solidifies their basic actions.
Since he said it'd be special training for defense, I thought he'd run them ragged with a thousand fungoes....
It certainly looks tough.
My legs, my hips...
Alright, the hundredth.
We're just getting started.


Can I go for some roadwork?
Eh? Now? Alone?
I want to do more sprints, to give my pitches a better break.
It's fine, go ahead.
Hatogaya-san...
Come on, it's okay. It's the ace's privilege.

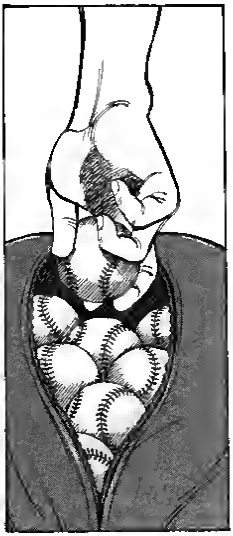

He's practicing sprints on his own. He's grown too.
二彩学

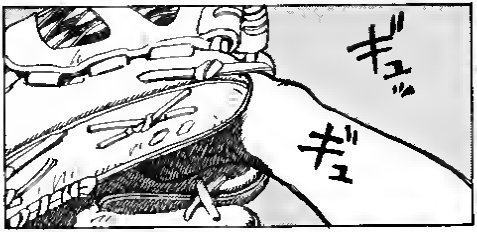

What are you planning ...?
Really, what a pain


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If you two want to try a new breaking ball, then I...
What two-seamer?

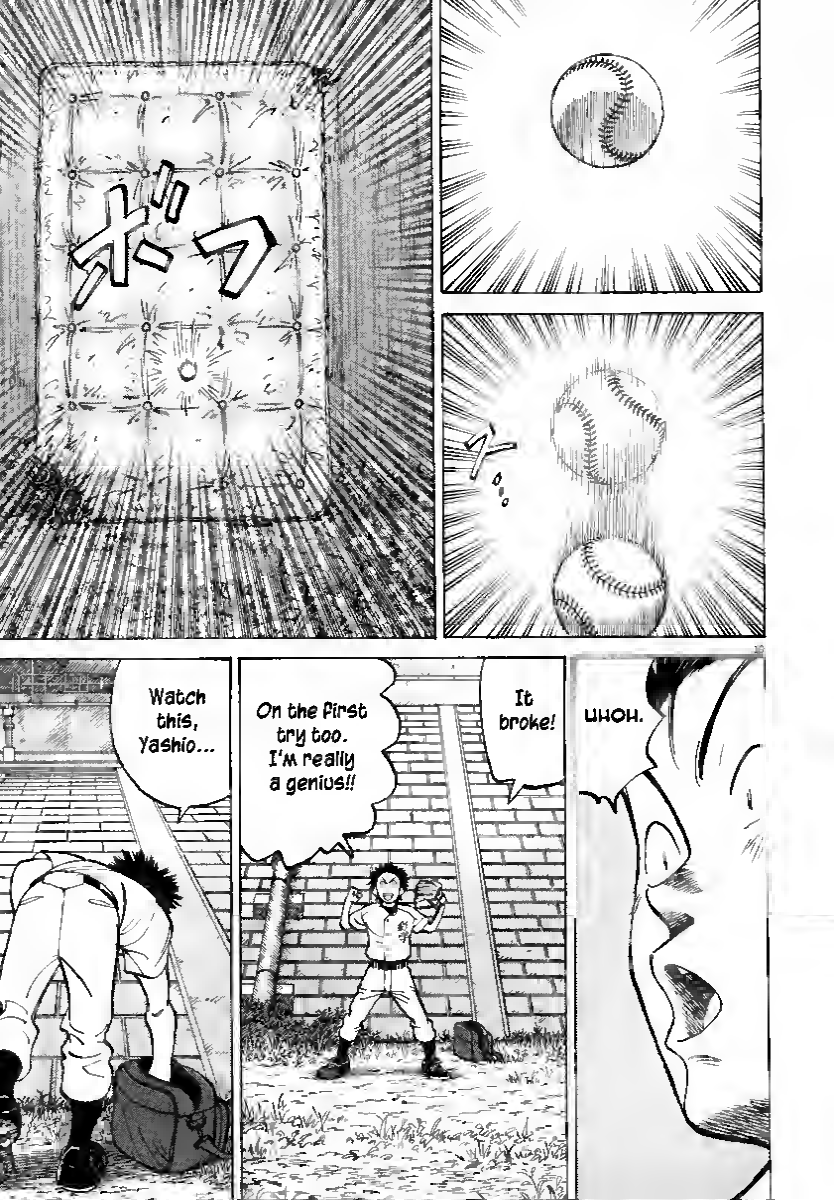



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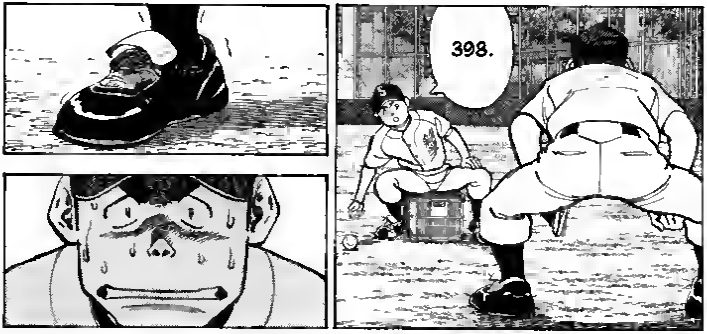

Speaking of a deciding pitch...

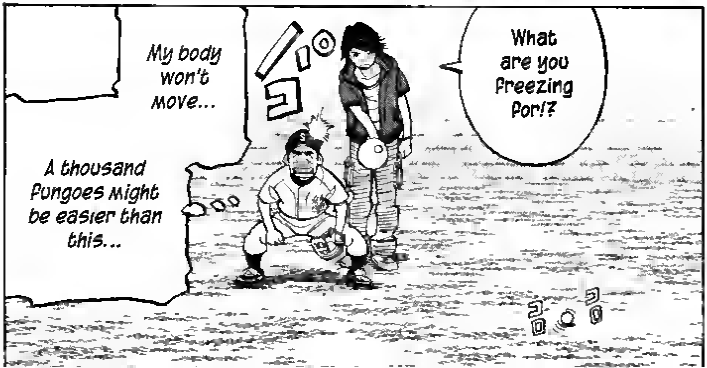

彩学




ボコ
UHOH.
It broke!
On the first try too. I'm really a genius!!
Watch this, Yashio...

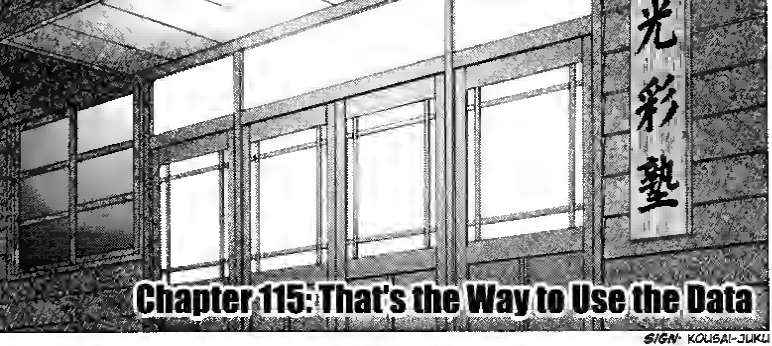

彩学
From now on, my winning pitch is the Fork!!
ズン


398.


My body won't move...
What are you freezing for!?
A thousand fungoes might be easier than this...
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ENDLESS
ABYSS
ENDLESSABYSS.HOST56.COM
TRANSLATOR
CLEANER
TYPESETTER
QC'ER
Cmertb
Deakachu
PANA
LordLestat
LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

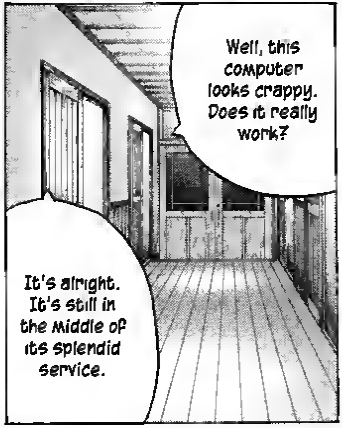

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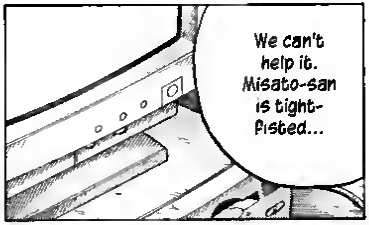


Chapter 115: That's the Way to Use the Data

SIGN: KOUSAI-JUKU





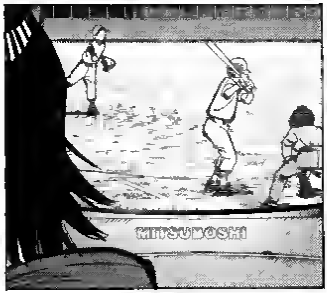


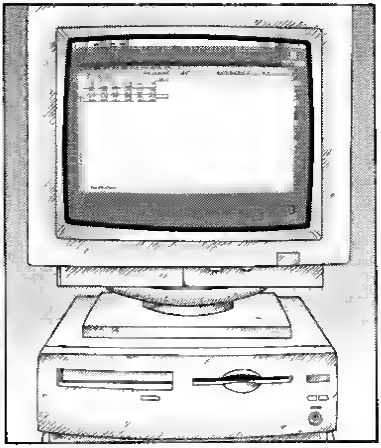


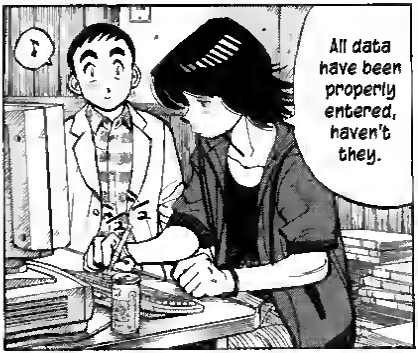


Chapter 115: That's the Way to Use the Data

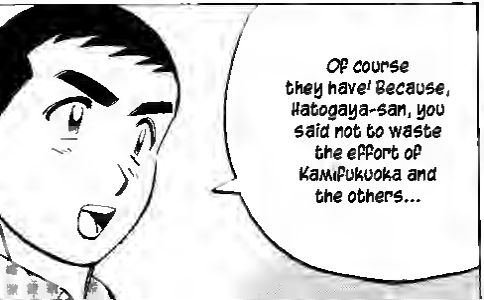



MITSUMOSHI

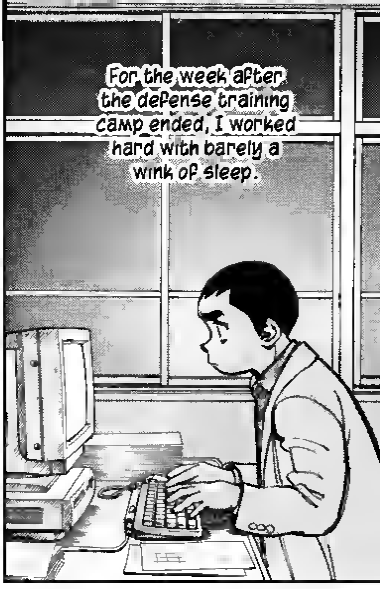



All data have been properly entered, haven't they.

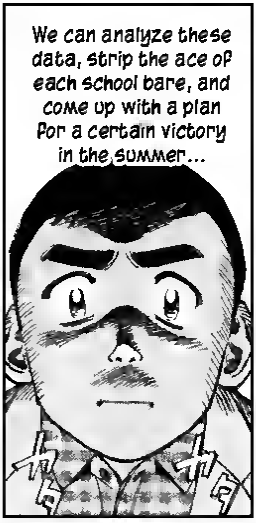

The first pitch is a hanging curve... Next is a fastball to the outside...
Here it is.


Of course they have! Because, Hatogaya-san, you said not to waste the effort of Kamifukuoka and the others...

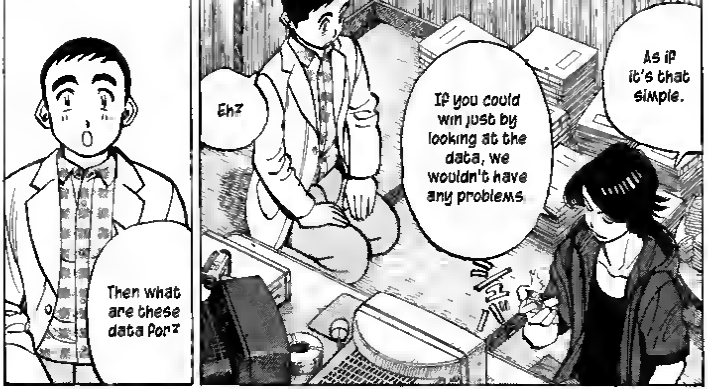

Inputting all data, from the 8 strongest schools of the spring prefectural tournament to the Kanbou tournament, was tough work, but it was worth the effort.


For the week after the defense training camp ended, I worked hard with barely a wink of sleep.


This is data baseball!


We can analyze these data, strip the ace of each school bare, and come up with a plan for a certain victory in the summer...

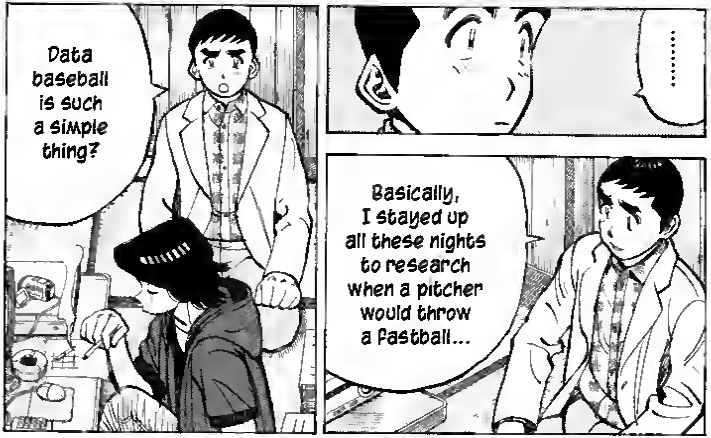



Then what are these data for?
Eh?
If you could win just by looking at the data, we wouldn't have any problems.
As if it's that simple.


A straight pitch, right?
That would be...
Yes?
Moro, what do you think is the easiest pitch to hit for a batter?

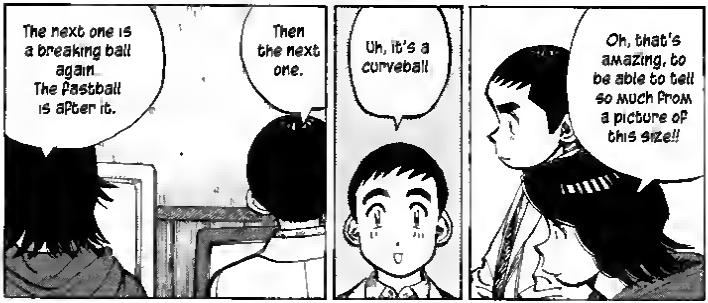

Since baseball was born into this world, I don't know how many pitchers have appeared, but I suppose there hasn't been a single one who couldn't throw a fastball.
Right.


Because anyone can throw it, it's easy to hit...
Is that what you mean?
And even easier if you know when it's coming.

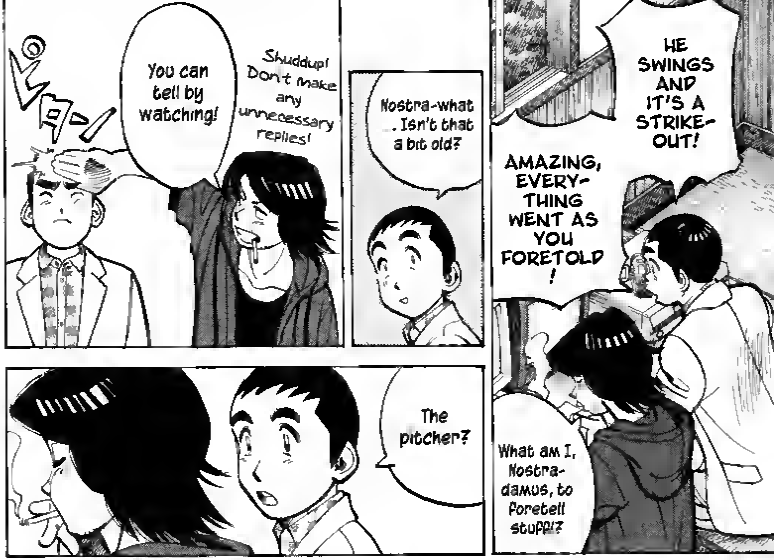

.....
Basically, I stayed up all these nights to research when a pitcher would throw a fastball...
Data baseball is such a simple thing?


Then...


Can you tell when this pitcher is going to throw a fastball?
His face looks like he's strong-willed... The first pitch will likely be a fastball.


Oh, that's amazing, to be able to tell so much from a picture of this size!!
Uh, it's a curveball
Then the next one.
The next one is a breaking ball again. The fastball is after it.

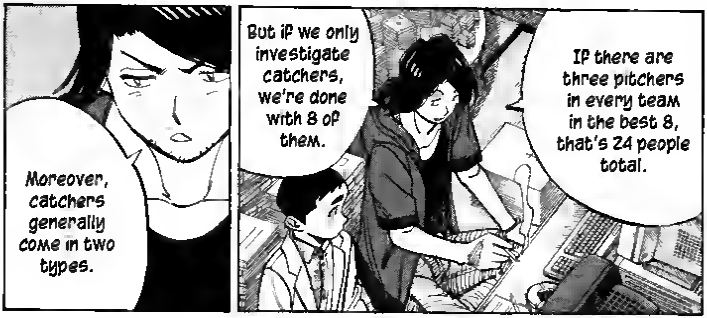

That's true...
That's 1-2.
Next is a fastball that might turn into a ball. If the batter doesn't swing, then a breaking ball after it—

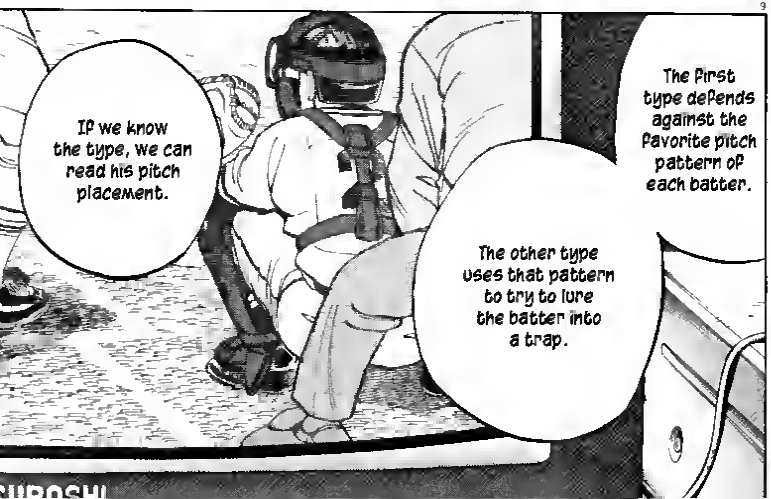

You can tell by watching!
Shuddup! Don't make any unnecessary replies!
Nostra-what...Isn't that a bit old?
HE SWINGS AND IT'S A STRIKE-OUT!
AMAZING, EVERY-THING WENT AS YOU FORETOLD!
What am I, Nostra-damus, to foretell stuff!?
The pitcher?

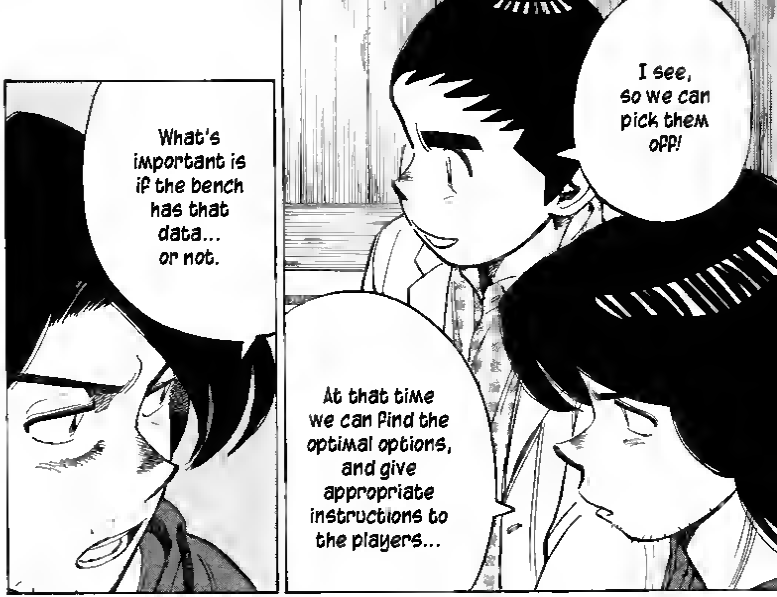

If we desperately research their aces and they don't play in our match, what's the point?
All teams that rise to best 8 have three pitchers.


No, the catcher!

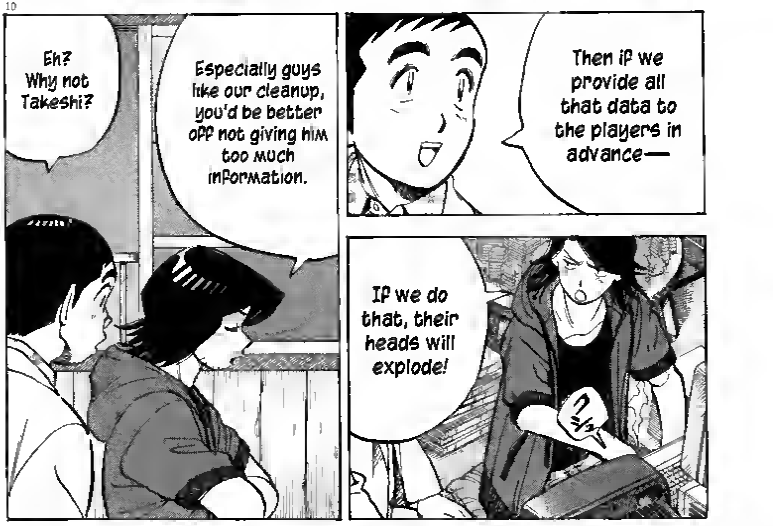

Right, there's only one regular catcher!
Then, it's the catcher who decides the pitch placement!


Moreover, catchers generally come in two types.
But if we only investigate catchers, we're done with 8 of them.
If there are three pitchers in every team in the best 8, that's 24 people total.

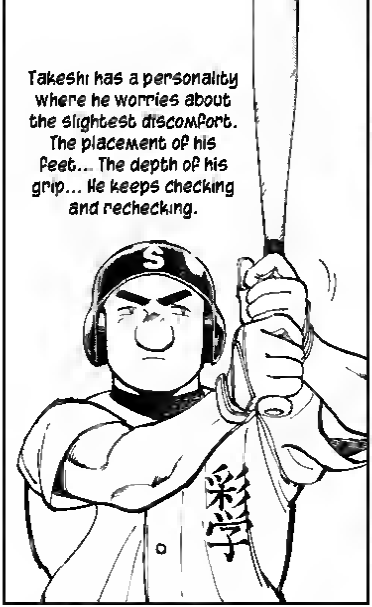

If we know the type, we can read his pitch placement.
The first type depends against the favorite pitch pattern of each batter.
The other type uses that pattern to try to lure the batter into a trap.


I see, so we can pick them OPP!
What's important is if the bench has that data... or not.
At that time we can find the optimal options, and give appropriate instructions to the players...

10

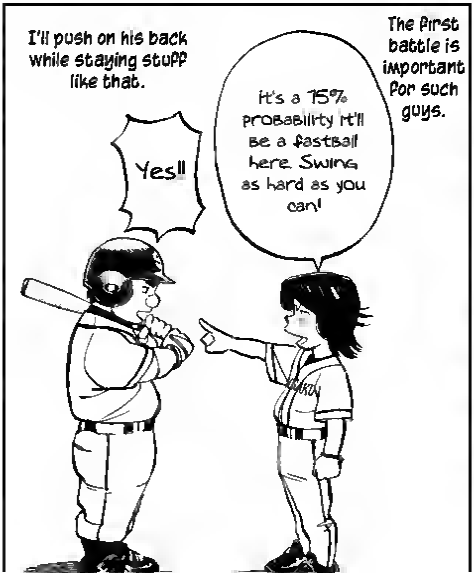

Then if we provide all that data to the players in advance—
Especially guys like our cleanup, you'd be better OPP not giving him too much information.
Eh? Why not Takeshi?
If we do that, their heads will explode!


Because he thinks too much.
Eh!? He's that type!?
A skillful batter like him...!? I didn't notice.
It's surprising
Skillful? I can't think that...
Okay, nice batting.


Takeshi has a personality where he worries about the slightest discomfort. The placement of his feet... The depth of his grip... He keeps checking and rechecking.




He's worrying again.


I'll push on his back while staying stuff like that.
Yes!!
It's a 75% probability it'll be a fastball here. Swing as hard as you can!
The first battle is important for such guys.


It's fine while he gets results, but once he fails to hit, his slump where he frets over everything grows long.


Takeshi is a batter of that caliber, after all.
If he knows which pitch is coming with 100% certainty, his mistakes will be few as well ..
In order to dispel his doubts.
No matter how good of an athlete he is, in the end he's only a high schooler. Even if he means to make reliable plays, there will be mistakes.
Hatogaya-san, I thought you too relied only on Takeshi .
13
I rely on him, but I don't put my faith in him.

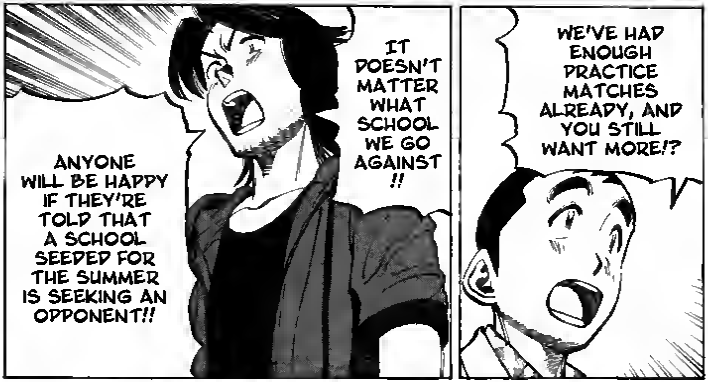

I see...
That's why the bench must grasp the data and use it to lead the troops.


ゴク
While I'm saying that,
I can't bear the fact that I've also committed errors in command.


What's that!
I'm doing this because I can't help it. It was forced on me.
You seem to be enjoying this, Katogaya-san.
You don't have to be so bashful about it.
Although I didn't think that I'd be able to return to this world ever again...
You're in a position where you can make plenty of use of your knowledge and experience. Obviously, it would be enjoyable!!
15

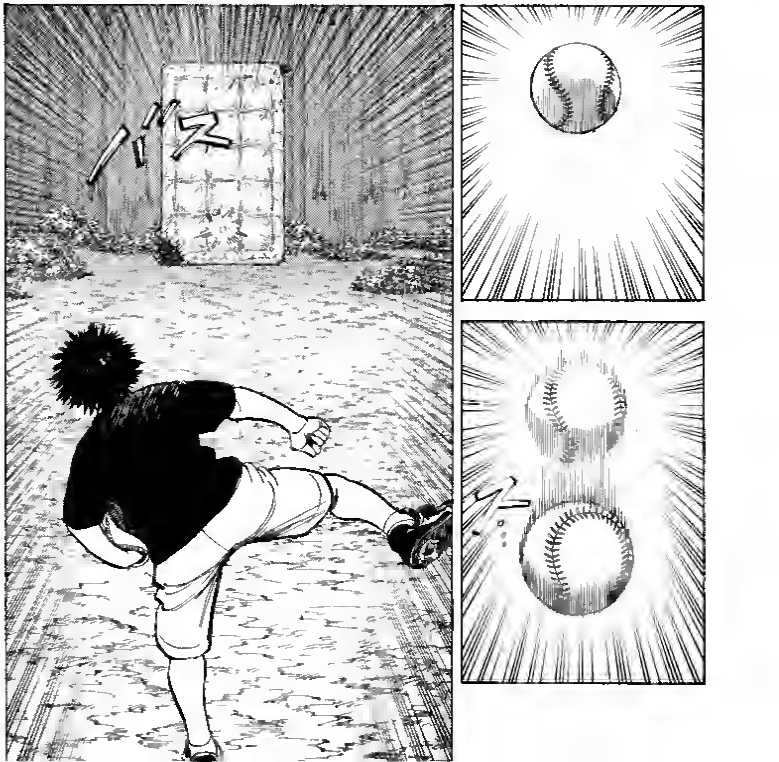

Don't give up baseball, Keisuke!!
I pray that one day you will go back to the field...
There's no way my good fortune would run out from just being able to return...


EH!?
MORO! IF WE HAVE ANY OPENINGS IN OUR SCHEDULE BEFORE THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT, FILL THEM WITH MATCHES!!


WE'VE HAD ENOUGH PRACTICE MATCHES ALREADY, AND YOU STILL WANT MORE!?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT SCHOOL WE GO AGAINST !!
ANYONE WILL BE HAPPY IF THEY'RE TOLD THAT A SCHOOL SEEDED FOR THE SUMMER IS SEEKING AN OPPONENT!!


WE'LL PLAY AGAINST THEM AND WIN EVERY TIME!!


The time to form a "habit of winning" that you were talking about is finally at hand.


バシ


Yashio and Steve, huh... They're still making a shabby sound.


S
Y-
Yes...!
彩学
STILL NO GOOD! MAKE SURE YOU CONFIRM YOUR GRIP!!
Uh.
.....
20
You are quite right...
Before you form a habit of winning, why don't you fix your habit of sticky fingers?
Could you lend me some money for smokes...?


ENDLESS
ABYSS
ENDLESSABYSS.HOST56.COM
TRANSLATOR
CLEANER
TYPESETTER
QC'ER
Cmertb
Deakachu
PANA
LordLestat
LOOKING
FOR STAFF.

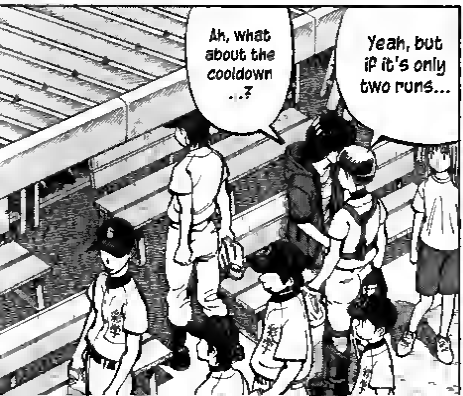

A SHAMELESS E-A RECRUITMENT PAGE
WE NEED STAFF! WE ARE RECRUITING ALL JAPANESE AND CHINESE TRANSLATORS.
CAN'T TRANSLATE? WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR CLEANERS, TYPESETTERS AND EDITORS. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.
APPLY ON OUR FORUM OR TALK TO STAFF ON IRC.
#E-A@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
HTTP://Z15.INVISIONFREE.COM/ENDLESS_ABYSS

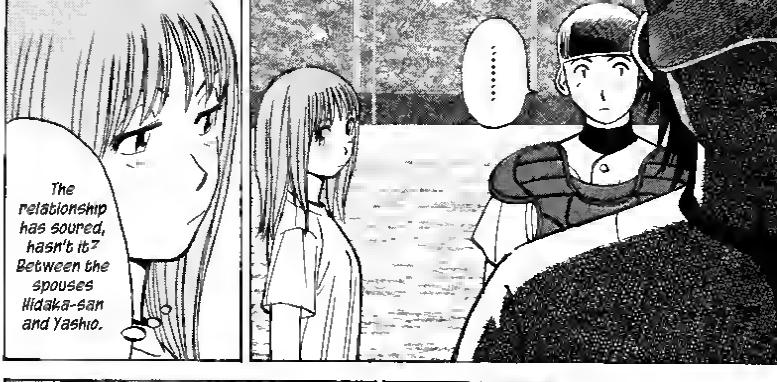


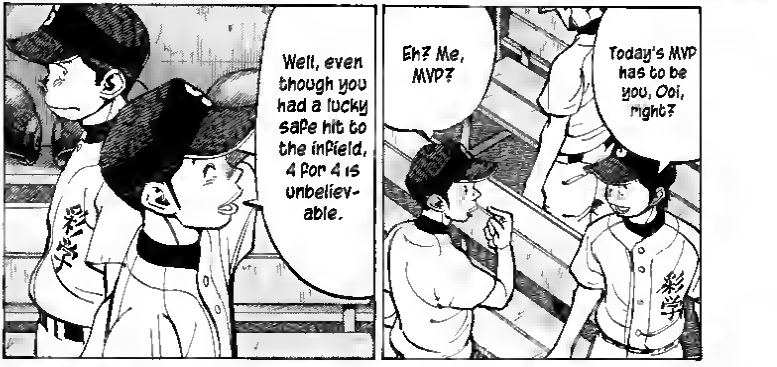
Chapter 166: The Melancholy of Captain Namekawa

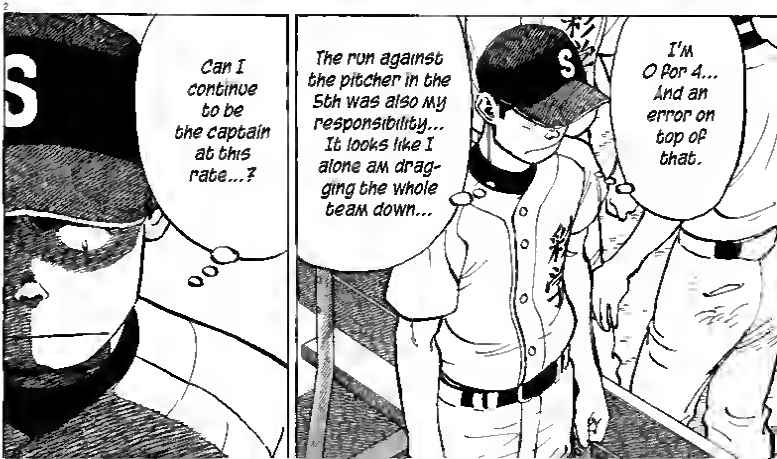


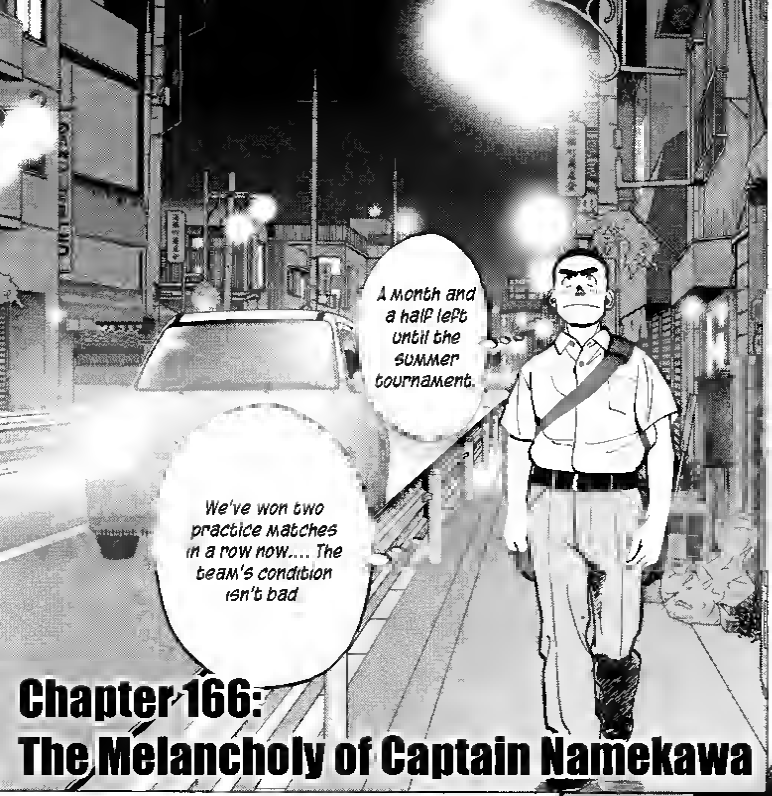




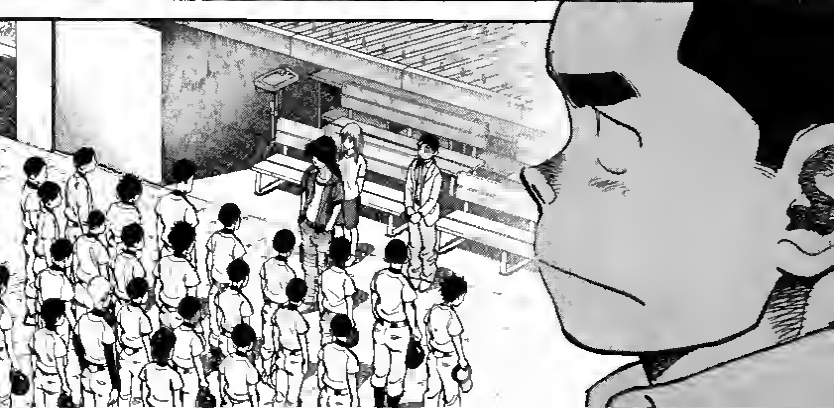

The relationship has soured, hasn't it? Between the spouses Hidaka-san and Yashio.
.....


Well, even though you had a lucky safe hit to the infield, 4 for 4 is unbelievable.
Eh? Me, MVP?
Today's MVP has to be you, Ooi, right?


Can I continue to be the captain at this rate...?
The run against the pitcher in the 5th was also my responsibility... It looks like I alone am dragging the whole team down...
I'm 0 for 4... And an error on top of that.



Chapter 166: The Melancholy of Captain Namekawa




We've set up 21 practice matches from now and until the real show starts.
We'll be using all of them to simulate the prefectural tournament!


Even if we're seeded third, if we don't win seven games in a row, we're not going to the Koshien!
Therefore, we'll be fighting with seven sequential victories as our goal!!
If we lose one, we'll check where our problem is, and aim for seven victories in a row once again.

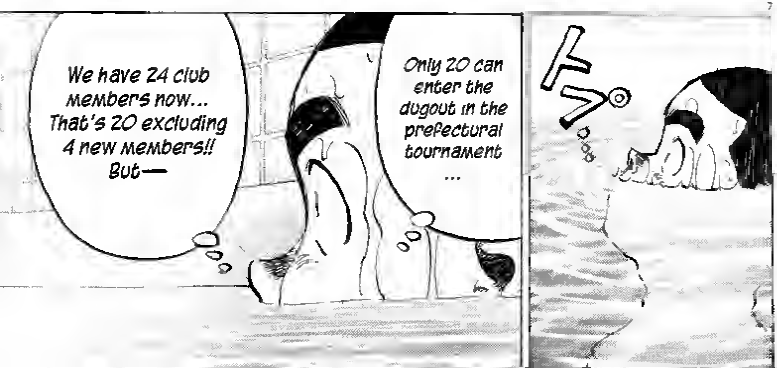

Ideally, we should achieve seven wins three times...
No,

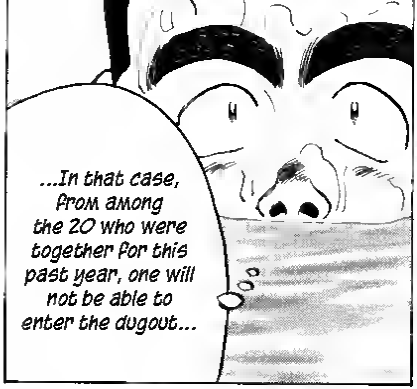

IN-CLUDING THE REAL THING, FOUR TIMES!!
AND THEN IT'S THE KOSHIEN!!

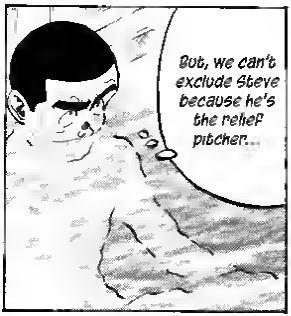

Because if we don't go to the Koshien, our baseball club will be gone...
28 wins in a row...
Can we really do it...?
No, we have no other choice.
Are you ready for this, Name-kawa ~~~?
How dare you sully our tradition.
If that happens on my watch...
NAMEKAWA MEATS

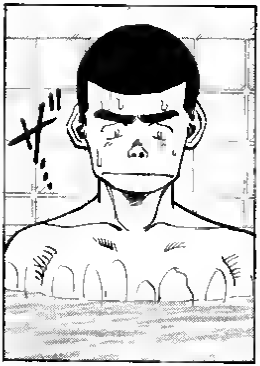

Oh no, I can't stand it~
I'll be reminded of it for the rest of my life.
UHIIII~~~~
ドン!!

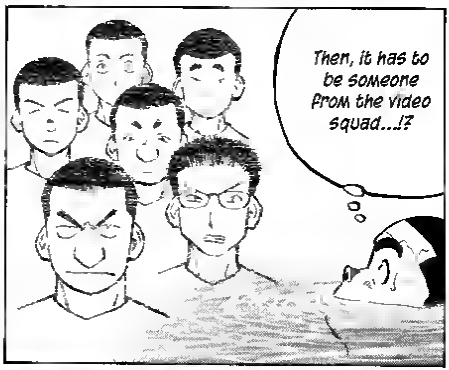

!!
Every-one...!?
Even though we've all been going through tortuous training this past year...


We have 24 club members now... That's 20 excluding 4 new members!! But—
Only 20 can enter the dugout in the prefectural tournament ...
トン


...In that case, from among the 20 who were together for this past year, one will not be able to enter the dugout...


But, we can't exclude Steve because he's the relief pitcher...




Then, it has to be someone from the video squad...!?

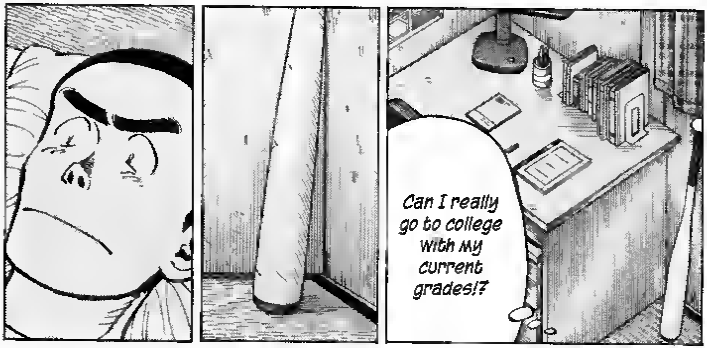

Besides, once we all start suspecting each other, the results that this team has finally started to show will begin to unravel
Just one person
It's too cruel for someone who's been together with us all this time ..


Then I'm sure no one will have any confidence in me as the captain anyway...
If I play like today, just dragging everyone down...
I'd rather not be the captain then...
If even I start suspecting every little thing, what's the point...!!?
サァアア


!!
Hello.
But in the end, I've become a little detached...


Yo.
Hi, Captain
In reality, even I'm interested in girls...!!
Everyone thinks of me as straight-laced.


Whether we win or lose, high school baseball will end for me this year... I have to start thinking seriously about my future...
But is it really okay to have nothing but baseball?
What am I thinking about!!? I need to concentrate on baseball!!!

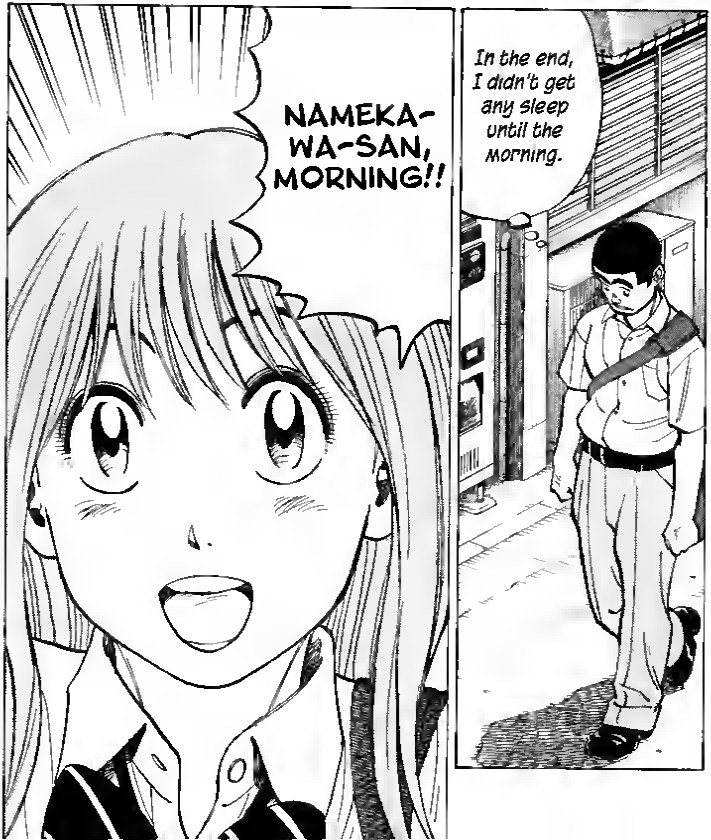

Can I really go to college with my current grades!?


Will I have the time to study for entrance exams...!?
But, if it's the other way around ...!?
If I go to the Koshien and show good results, I could get into a university on a baseball recommendation...


...Then, I have to concentrate on baseball even more now so that I can show some results!!
ガバッ
ガシ


I have to be the role model to raise everyone's motivation as well!!
How annoying, geez...
Wh- What are you doing, Onii-chan?

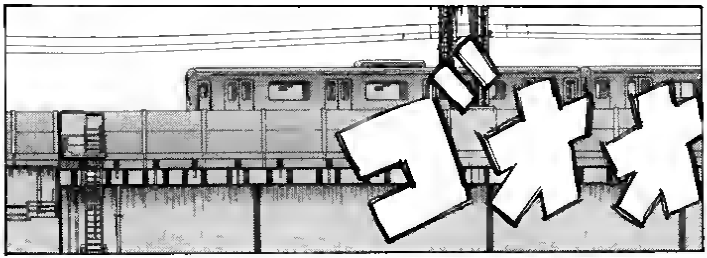


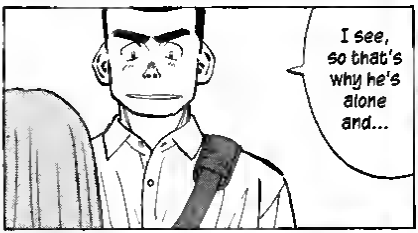

In the end, I didn't get any sleep until the morning.
NAMEKA-WA-SAN, MORNING!!

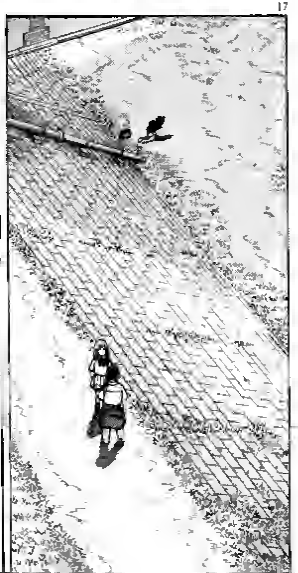

MANAGER!? G- GOOD MORN.
Mom?
You startled me~
Eh?
15
Actually, I need some advice from you, Captain.
. . A girl's asking me for advice ...
Love troubles now, on top of everything~!? For real~!?
Come with me!


She's troubled about Hidaka!?
ドラ
...Actually, what is he doing here!?


What do you mean?
Eh?
It's gradually breaking at a greater angle.


ゴオオ


I see, so that's why he's alone and...




But still...
So it wasn't about any love troubles...


I mean, in the past, if something like that happened, he wouldn't even come to practice out of spite!!


I'M REALLY MOVED!
THAT HIDAKA WOULD CHALLENGE HIMSELF WITH SOMETHING NEW FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM!
So that's how you see it.


Just you and me, Name-kawa-san.


Who knows about this?


If he gets Pound out in the middle, he might quit his strange obsession.
We're talking about Hidaka-san here, I'm sure he wants to surprise Yashio and the others afterward. Don't you think so?


WAIT !!
Then I have to tell Poppo about it!!


That just might happen...


I want to watch over him.
But if no one's with him, if there's an accident or something...
That's why I wanted your advice, Captain.
Here.
If anything happens, I'll be sure to report.
EHHH !?
OKAY? OKAY?



Last Inning v12 —END—


ENDLESS
ABYSS
ENDLESSABYSS.HOST56.COM
TRANSLATOR
CLEANER
TYPESETTER
QC'ER
Cmertb
Deakachu
PANA
LordLestat
LOOKING
FOR STAFF.


A SHAMELESS E-A RECRUITMENT PAGE
WE NEED STAFF! WE ARE RECRUITING ALL JAPANESE AND CHINESE TRANSLATORS.
CAN'T TRANSLATE? WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR CLEANERS, TYPESETTERS AND EDITORS. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.
APPLY ON OUR FORUM OR TALK TO STAFF ON IRC.
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